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30P

THE TIMES

No. 65,242 SATURDAY APRIL 15 1995

Howard seeks defence disclosure

Criminal trial procedure to be reformed

BY STEWART TENDLER AND RICHARD FORD

DEFENCE lawyers will have to provide an outline of their case to the Crown within four weeks of receiving details of prosecution evidence, under government proposals being considered by ministers, judges and police.

The requirement is to be included in a criminal justice Bill promised for the autumn by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, in response to police complaints that existing rules have allowed the guilty to go free and put officers and informants at risk.

At the moment, defence lawyers do not have to outline their case until a trial has started: by making them identify the issues in dispute in advance, the Home Office hopes to prevent "ambushes" of the prosecution in court. It also aims to stop expensive "fishing trips" through police material by the defence in the hope of finding weaknesses to exploit in court. If the defence had to provide a skeleton of its case before the trial began, there would be little point in solicitors making unreasonable demands for large quantities of irrelevant material from the prosecution.

In return, the Crown will have to give defence lawyers any material that might discredit defence witnesses — such as previous convictions — and any information that might weaken a Crown case, such as inconclusive scientific evidence. Police will also be required to keep all material gathered in their investigations in case it is needed later.

Existing law requires the Crown to disclose virtually all material relating to a case, even when it will not be used in court. The police have complained that this rule has led to trials being abandoned where they have material that is sensitive or could endanger witnesses and informants. They also say that the logistics of supplying pages of information, often irrelevant, have led to trials being delayed.

Det Chief Supt Michael Woodhouse of West Yorkshire wrote earlier this year that a growing number of solicitors were attempting to jam up the workings of prosecutions by making outrageous demands for information. This did little in the interests of justice, since it led to more cases being abandoned and to more acquittals; not because the prosecution evidence was insufficient but because confusion was created.

Chief Supt Woodhouse said the burgeoning industry of demanding disclosure did little for the interests of justice. The same point was made last year by Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, who said there was a danger of the guilty going free because of the weight of paperwork that the prosecution had to release.

But John Wadham, legal officer with Liberty, said last night that the proposals now being put forward would give the Crown an unfair advantage. "We are against defence disclosure of their case," he said. "If the defence discloses their case it will mean the prosecution can amend their case for trial. The defence will be helping them to improve their case and I do not any reason why the defence should do that".

Police would know which witnesses a defendant intended to call and how the defence intended to cross-examine the police. "That is a tremendous advantage to the Crown."

Mr Wadham also questioned what sanctions the court would be able to impose on a defence team who failed to produce an outline of their case within the time limit.

The current concern has arisen new rules on disclosure were laid down when Judith Ward was freed after being wrongly convicted of the IRA's M62 coach bombing. Then the Court of Appeal ruled that the prosecution had a duty to notify the defence of all such evidence.

The latest proposals do not, however, provide a legislative solution to material covering intelligence operations or the identity of informants that could attract public interest immunity certificates.

The Home Office is recommending that the level of disclosure in such sensitive areas should be decided on a case-by-case basis with precedent established by the courts.

ALAN LEWIS



Superintendent Hugh Wallace of the RUC with some of the weapons found in the house

Loyalist gun cache seized in raid on home

BY NICHOLAS WATT AND PAUL WILKINSON

A MANAGER at a Royal Ordnance factory in England was being questioned by police in Belfast last night after the discovery of what is believed to be a loyalist arms cache.

Forty weapons, including sub-machine guns and rifles, were found at a semi-detached house in Holywood, Co Down, and were believed to belong to the Ulster Volunteer Force. Engineering equipment was removed from the house.

The raid came after the arrest on Thursday of the ordnance factory manager from Birtley, Co Durham. A security source said that the man, who comes orginally from Ulster, had been under surveillance on his journey by car and ferry.

He was detained by the Royal Ulster Constabulary, and his brother and sister-in-law, who live in the terraced house, were also arrested. Detectives were last night continuing an inch by inch search of the house.

The RUC last night put 38 weapons on display at the force's forensic headquarters at Carrickfergus, Co Antrim. The finds included nine sub-machine guns, 18 rifles, ten handguns, one shotgun and hundreds of rounds of ammunition. Police said it was too early to say whether the weapons were being prepared for a renewed terrorist campaign by loyalist paramilitaries.

Superintendent Hugh Wallace, the RUC's sub-divisional commander for the Bangor and Holywood area, described the discovery as "extremely significant". The find was the most important since last year's IRA and loyalist ceasefires.

INSIDE



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Parent's guide to Easter entertainment for children
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Simon Jenkins on the anti-urban conspiracy
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Four-letter Passion play

A three-hour Passion play in and around Westminster Abbey, financed jointly by the Methodist, Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, included so many four-letter words and profanities that some members of the audience yesterday were left in tears while others walked out in anger. Page 3

Union heads 'out of touch' on Clause 4

Labour Party officals went on the offensive against critics of modernisation, accusing leaders of unions that oppose change of being out of step with their members. Tony Blair made clear that he would not compromise over his plans to rewrite Clause Four. Page 2

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Fearful Tokyo stands by to face day of disaster

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

MUCH of the entertainment heart of Tokyo will pull down its shutters today after threats by the doomsday cult responsible for subway nerve gas attacks of an even more terrible disaster this weekend.

In an effort to forestall what Shoko Asahara, leader of the Aum Shinri Kyo (Supreme Truth) sect, prophesies will be a day of catastrophe for Tokyo more devastating than the Kobe earthquake in January, 100,000 police yesterday set up security checks across the capital and raided 130 centres owned by the cult. More than 50 children were taken into protective custody.

In a sign of the nervousness, two shopping centres and several schools said they would close today. Mr Asahara's predictions that horror will strike in Tokyo — perhaps in the entertainment district of Shinjuku — have received huge publicity. The disaster, he says, "will make the earthquake seem as minor as a fly landing on one's cheek".

Police have ordered all available personnel to guard main centres; a third of the nation's force took part in yesterday's raids.

The government has told hospitals to stockpile nerve gas antidotes and train personnel in treatment methods, and guards with gas masks were last night standing in pouring rain at most main junctions and railway stations in shopping and entertainment districts.

Television yesterday showed police in chemical-proof gear pushing aside cult followers to force their way into private houses and offices. In the main cult base of Kamikuishiki, in central Japan, police took 53 children.

Until recently there has been scepticism about Mr Ashahara. But the city's fear yesterday showed that his threat is being taken seriously.

The government spokesman said the rumours could not be discounted: "We must be cautious about everything, so the people can be free of worry."

The people are not free of worry. One woman said that her daughter, now in her 20s, disappeared years ago after joining the cult. Nothing was heard, until this week she telephoned to warn her parents: "Don't go to Shinjuku on Friday or Saturday."

Japan cuts rate to boost spending

The Bank of Japan cut its leading interest rate to a 1 per cent low to boost spending and shake the country out of a four-year recession. The official discount rate was cut by 0.75 of a percentage point. Page 21

Lure of sunshine jams the roads

BY EDWARD GORMAN

EASTER holidaymakers determined to make the best of the unseasonally warm weather brought chaos to the roads and created some of the biggest Good Friday traffic jams for years.

While resorts like Bournemouth boasted higher temperatures than Corfu, thousands who wanted to be on the beach spent most of the morning in nose-to-tail traffic.

Some of the worst blockages were on the M6, where motorists were stuck in two separate tailbacks of 18 and 22 miles. An estimated 4,000 vehicles an hour were estimated to be flooding into the South-West as tourists headed for Devon and Cornwall.

The AA said that in some areas it was one of the worst Good Fridays on record. "It was the busiest Easter getaway I have known in 20 years," said Graham Pearson of AA Roadwatch. He described the M6 as horrendous. "Once the motorways were jammed, many of the alternative roads became blocked as people tried to find routes out of the area."

The RAC warned of continued delays throughout the weekend, particularly on the Great Return Home on Monday evening.

For people flying abroad to the sun, things went more smoothly. Gatwick will have its busiest Easter weekend ever, handling 230,000 passengers — 20,000 more than last year.

Heathrow is expected to handle 500,000 passengers, while around 300,000 passengers will pass through Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow airports. The

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Burl Ives, 'the mightiest ballad singer', dies at 85

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK



Ives: "never did like singing for kids much"

BURL IVES, the singer and actor who charmed a generation with his classic American folk ballads, died early yesterday, aged 85. Ives who had been in a coma since Wednesday, died at his home in Anacortes, Washington, after a lengthy battle with cancer of the mouth.

With Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger, he helped to bring American folk music to a wide audience and was hailed by the poet Carl Sandburg as "the mightiest ballad singer of this or any other century".

With his trademark goatee and comfortable paunch, he was principally famous as a children's entertainer, crooning and strumming such favourites as *Jimmy Crack Corn, Blue Tail Fly* and *Big Rock Candy Mountain*. But he was also an accomplished stage and screen actor, most memorably as "Big Daddy" in Tennessee Williams's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. In 1958 he won a best supporting role Oscar for *The Big Country*.

As a youth Ives roamed the Midwest collecting songs and stories from hobos and drifters, a time he chronicled, with some embellishment, in his 1948 autobiography *Wayfaring Stranger*. Asked about the exaggerations, he was unrepentant: "The truth is mundane," he said.

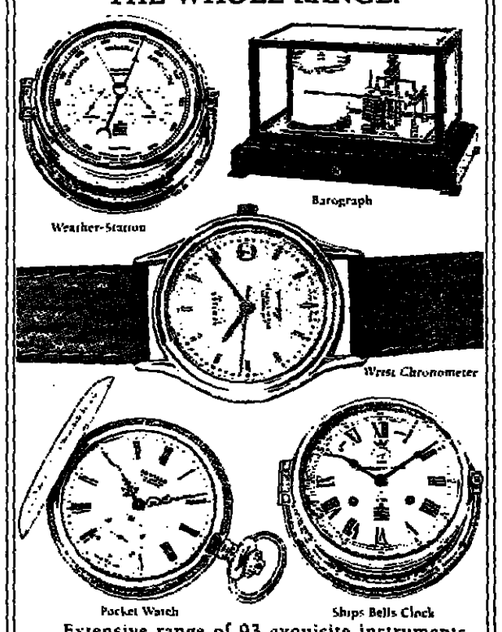
The bear-like man who made millions singing *Frosty the Snowman* and *Holly Jolly Christmas* made no secret of the fact that he preferred performing for adults. "I never did like to sing for kids much," he admitted some years ago.

Ives's political inclinations, and in particular a benefit to provide food for China in the late 1940s, earned him the attentions of anti-communists and he was eventually forced to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee, an experience which left him with a life-long dislike of government.

Ives made his first public appearance at the age of four. Still performing 80 years later, he reminisced: "I don't remember when I started singing. There wasn't a beginning".

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Simon Jenkins, Alan Coren, Brenda Maddox on **Media,** and the **Property** pages



FILMS
Sigourney Weaver in *Death and the Maiden,* and other new films of the week
PLUS:
Janet Daley, William Rees-Mogg, **Books, Travel News, Body and Mind,** and the **Economic View**

POP
Caitlin Moran on modern music and musicians
PLUS:
the Valerie Grove interview, Bernard Levin, Philip Howard, Clement Freud on sport, and **Infotech**



TRAVEL
Exotic family holidays without tears
PLUS: in the **Magazine:** Jonathan Meades on dining out, Frances Bissell on dining in. In **Weekend:** George Plumptre on gardening, Paul Heiney's farmer's diary. And: **Car 95, Weekend Money** and **Vision,** your 7-day TV and radio guide

THE TIMES AT 20p - YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT IT

Labour retaliates after Clause 4 setback

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

■ Party leaders claim union opposition to reform is out of step with the views of the vast majority of individual members

THE Labour leadership went on the offensive against critics of party modernisation yesterday, accusing the leaders of unions that oppose change of being out of step with the views of their members. Tony Blair made clear that he would not compromise over his plans to rewrite Clause Four and drop the commitment to nationalisation from the party's constitution. The move followed the vote on Thursday by Unison, the country's largest union, against the change.



Blair: determined not to compromise

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said that, where there were ballots or polls, "change is finding massive support among not just party members but among trade unionists".

He added: "The vast majority of the 320,000 individual members of the Labour Party are now being balloted on the changes to Clause Four."

Donald Dewar, the Shadow Social Security Secretary and a key ally of Mr Blair, said: "Every test of the opinion of the members has backed Tony Blair's call for change."

Harriet Harman, Shadow Employment Secretary, argued that early returns from the constituencies showed that individual members, given the chance to vote, had been voting eight-to-one in favour of the revised Clause Four.

But Mr Blair's predictions of victory in the vote on the proposed change on April 29 were clouded by fresh signs that his modernising impulses were alienating powerful unions.

The GMB general union, which will have the second biggest block vote at the special conference, said it was far from certain that it would back Mr Blair, raising the prospect of the three biggest unions opposing change. The GMB, Unison and the transport workers' union between them wield 38 per cent of the conference vote, and if they stood together Mr Blair would have to sweep the constituency section to be sure of committing his party to a new constitution founded on backing for a dynamic, market economy. "He would be in deep trouble," a GMB source said.

The GMB's 80-strong delegation to the conference is due to decide its stance on Clause Four in ten days' time and has so far been counted among Mr Blair's strongest union backers. However, Phil Woolas, the GMB's head of communications, said that the result was not a foregone conclusion.

"It should not be taken for granted. It is far from certain. Opinion is divided." But he added that John Edmonds, the general secretary, was happy with the way that the proposed new statement of Labour's aims and values dealt with full employment.

Mr Blair struck a defiant note in the wake of Unison's startling decision to defend the existing Clause Four, and his shadow Cabinet lieutenants said yesterday they were not interested in "secret deals in smoke-filled rooms" to buy off union bosses.

In a sideswipe at union leaders' alleged disdain for internal democracy — one that is bound to drive a further wedge between Labour modernisers and traditionalists — Mr Blair's officials said that he believed he had the overwhelming support of the mass of trade union members.

This had been demonstrated every time grassroots trade unionists had been asked their opinion in union surveys, in opinion polls and constituency ballots. By making decisions through groups of activists, the big unions were only hastening the demise of the block vote, the officials suggested.

Senior Labour Party officials added that it was "fixed in concrete" but conceded that they would face growing pressure for concessions in the two weeks left to the conference.

A Labour Party source said: "The party leadership believes that decisions such as Unison's and the TGWU executive's play into their hands because they will reveal the extent and importance of real grassroots feeling in favour of change within the party as the final April conference decision will not be dependent on trade union block votes.

"The Unison and TGWU stance will expose the fragility of old fashioned activist-dominated structures and give even greater force to the case for an extension of one-member, one-vote democracy in the unions," the source added.

But union sources reacted angrily to claims that their delegations were unrepresentative, saying that the criticism would not be made if they were coming out for Mr Blair and pointing to the extent of their consultation exercises. They also said that had they used their political funds to ballot their members, Labour would have been deprived of huge sums of money: around £200,000 in the case of the biggest unions.

"They should keep their comments to themselves. They don't help the situation," one leading union activist said.

But Mr Blair's officials said he was confident of scoring a "convincing win" and securing "a hugely important demonstration of Labour's embrace of modernisation".

Leading article, page 17

Teachers' union calls for strike action

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE prospect of renewed disruption in state schools moved closer last night as the National Union of Teachers opened its annual conference amid calls for industrial action on at least four fronts.

Delegates to the conference in Blackpool are expected to sanction tomorrow refusals to teach classes of more than 30 pupils. They will also consider extending the union's two-year boycott of national curriculum tests, withdrawing co-operation with inspections, and obstructing moves to school-based teacher training.

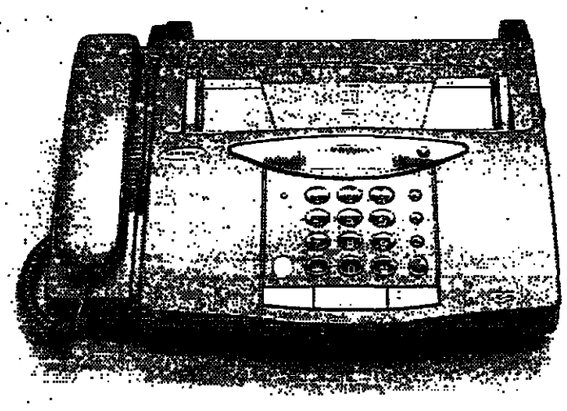
Ministers' hopes of a return to peace in the classroom are threatened by a mood of militancy after the Government's refusal to fund the teachers' 2.7 per cent pay rise. Up to 14,000 jobs may be lost as governors struggle to balance school budgets. With the Association of Teachers and Lecturers committed to a ballot on boycotting large classes, the NUT is almost certain to follow suit.

Two motions call for a national one-day strike as part of a campaign that would include regional demonstrations and a lobby of Parliament. They say that Government measures have led to unacceptably large classes, imposing high levels of stress on teachers.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, has hinted at a more generous settlement for schools next year and invited teachers to give her ammunition for negotiations with the Treasury. However, Doug McAvoy, the NUT's general secretary, said teachers could judge the Government only on its actions. "The situation has reached a point where every teacher is angry and frustrated at the oversized classes and is anxious to have that addressed."

Mr McAvoy expressed concern over the more militant action advocated by left-wing groups. "A rolling programme of action that disrupted schools day in day out, in which our members were being told never to teach a class of more than 30 pupils and children were being sent home, would endanger our partnership with parents," Mr McAvoy said. "If there has to be action, my choice would be action which was demonstrating the extent of the problem and with which parents could be associated."

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Road chaos

Continued from page 1

London Weather Centre said temperatures reached 18°C (64°F) in parts of the south, well above the seasonal average of 12°C (54°F). Forecasters say, however, that the best of the holiday has and gone.

Today much of the country will remain dry, but there will be a fair amount of cloud. A chilly north-westerly breeze will make it feel much cooler than yesterday. The outlook for Sunday and Monday is predominantly dry in the South but increasing cloud in the North will bring occasional rain.

The rush to the coast, which would have been even worse had many people not travelled on Thursday evening, made boom times at the resorts. At Bournemouth ice creams sold quicker than hot cross buns.

Ray Evans, a local ice-cream man, said: "The sun's out, the girls have got their swimsuits on — who needs Baywatch when you can come to Bournemouth?" The borough council beach office reported a huge run on deck chairs. "The message is sit down quick if you want to get one," he said.

Blackpool was swamped with an estimated 500,000 visitors. Mike Chadwick the tourist officer, said: "We are confident that this will be our best ever Easter."

On the M40 near Oxford drivers were slowed to a crawl after gallons of concentrated washing-up liquid spilled from a lorry.

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ANDRE CAMARA



Paul Smith, from the winning team, at the Greyhound

Players lose marbles

COMPETITORS at the British and World Marbles Championships had to make do with secondhand marbles yesterday after their 300 tournament specials got lost in the post.

Sam McCarthy-Fox, Secretary of the British Marbles Board of Control, said: "Having new marbles each year is rather like having new balls at Wimbledon. We have never played a tournament with secondhand marbles before."

The specials were sent from the makers in Devon by Parcel Force. But they failed to arrive at the Greyhound pub at Tinsley Green, West Sussex — the Wembley of marbles.

Julia McCarthy-Fox, tournament spokeswoman, said: "Parcel Force just laughed and said, 'Oh dear, you've lost your marbles'. I think they've lost theirs."

Fortunately, the 16 all-English teams managed to scrape together enough practice marbles to get rolling.

Cook calls for cut in nuclear arms

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR yesterday demanded a cut in the number of nuclear warheads carried by Britain's Trident submarines.

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said the Government was not fulfilling its requirement under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to reduce its nuclear capacity and was instead "galloping in the opposite direction".

The attack came ahead of next week's talks in New York to review the treaty for the first time since it came into force in 1970. Mr Cook said that, by replacing Polaris with Trident submarines, the Government was increasing Britain's nuclear capacity.

Although a Trident submarine carries the same number of missiles as a Polaris, each missile can deliver twice the number of strategic nuclear warheads. The Ministry of Defence is committed to deploying no more than 96 warheads on each of Britain's four Trident submarines. This would double the number of warheads carried by Polaris submarines.

Mr Cook told the *New Statesman* magazine: "As a first step, Britain should announce that it will deploy no more warheads on Trident than are currently deployed on Polaris."

In signing the treaty, more than 170 countries renounced nuclear weapons. In return, the so-called "declared" nuclear states — Britain, the United States, Russia, France and China — agreed to cut their own stockpiles.

Mr Cook said that the non-nuclear countries would be asking how Britain was fulfilling its commitment and were likely to complain that "far from meeting its obligations, Britain appears to be galloping in the opposite direction."

He accused Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, of "breathtaking effrontery" for arguing in January that the Non-Proliferation Treaty enshrined the exclusive right of the nuclear states to possess nuclear weapons in perpetuity.

'You have to convey a degree of violence and humiliation to make this story real'

Passion play profanities cause tears at Abbey

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A PASSION play in and around Westminster Abbey, which included four-letter words and profanities left some members of the audience in tears while others walked out in anger yesterday.

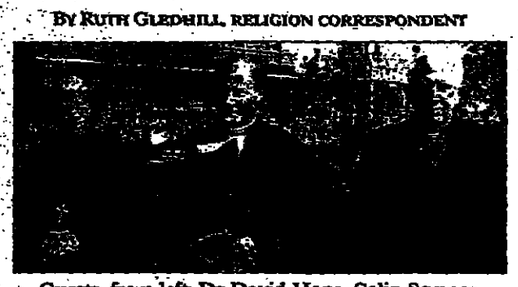
Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, who stayed for only half of the three-hour production, depicting Christ's trial and crucifixion, said he would have preferred something more meditative. Dr David Hope, Bishop of London and Archbishop-designate of York, described it as "very earthy".

The £3,000 play and procession, a traditional Easter event, began at the Methodist Central Hall and ended with the crucifixion in Westminster Abbey.

The play, written by Justin Butcher, a playwright and actor, was sprinkled with profanities such as "for Christ's sake". Christ's attire was described as "a pair of frigging overalls", and one actor told another as they carried the cross into the Abbey: "If you drop it, I'll cut your balls off."

When hanging on the Cross in the Abbey, Christ was called a "sorry looking bastard", and actors playing the crowd called him "Jewboy" and "pigshit".

When a leper was seeking to be healed, one actor told a joke about a leper playing cards who "threw his hand in", while a cripple asked a blind beggar healed by Christ: "Where do you think you are going, you sneaky bugger?"



Guests, from left: Dr David Hope, Colin Semper, Canon of Westminster, and Cardinal Basil Hume

On the one occasion in the Bible when Matthew's passion narrative indicates that swearing took place, when Peter denied Jesus three times (Matt 27:74), Peter in the play merely said: "God damn me if I'm lying."

One senior cleric, visibly shocked by the performance, said: "It is very clever and perceptive, but a bit near the bone for me. It could have been a bit closer to the Gospel."

The Rev Michael Seed, Cardinal Hume's ecumenical adviser, said: "It is earthy and realistic. I think it is frightening. It is not pompous, like a lot of religion can be."

Maria Hely-Hutchinson, Westminster cathedral volunteer, said: "It is very frightening. It has given me a pain in my stomach. They have introduced new words and made a mockery of it. A lot of people think the same. I have come every year, and always before people listened and joined in the procession, but this year they have turned away. This could be any other march. You would not think it was a Good Friday pilgrimage."

Ralph Mitchell, a devout Methodist, from Bath, said: "Some of the language was a bit strong, but other parts were very moving and made up for it."

The idea of a Good Friday passion pilgrimage was conceived about six years ago by Dr John Tudor, superintendent minister of the Central Hall, which stands opposite Westminster Abbey. Different dramatic techniques have been used, including a puppet production last year, but this was the most controversial yet. The play, financed jointly by the Methodist, Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches and presented by Greenbelt, a Christian arts organisation, was watched by thousands of spectators and tourists as well as invited guests who included senior police officers, the Salvation Army and other churches.

Dr Tudor defended the strong language: "It is not exactly Rite A from the *Alternative Service Book*, but it is designed to reach people who are not within the Church, and who I presume it will penetrate very quickly."

The playwright, a committed Anglican, said: "You have to convey a degree of violence and humiliation to make this story real and take it out of the realm of stained-glass windows and traditional depictions, to smash through the artifice that surrounds the story."

The director, Richard Syms, said that one cathedral during the play's three-week tour had asked for the four-letter words to be taken out, but at another Roman Catholic cathedral the nuns were more concerned about spilling "blood on the carpet" than bad language.

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Christ's attire was described as "a pair of frigging overalls" in the passion play

Girl dies jumping from bus after row

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

A GIRL aged 14 died after jumping from a minibus during an argument with her mother. Fay Greene was the only passenger in the 12-seat bus when she jumped from the back door as it travelled along a narrow country lane.

Her mother Susan was driving the minibus to visit friends but it seems Fay wanted to be elsewhere.

The death was being treated as a freak accident, and not considered suspicious by police. Fay is thought to have broken her neck as she hit the surface of the road as the minibus travelled at normal speed, in Smallfield, near Horley, Surrey, on Thursday. A post-mortem examination will be held and the coroner has been informed. Police are asking witnesses to contact them.

Inspector Guy Darby, of Surrey Police, said: "She didn't want to be in the vehicle, she wanted to be somewhere else. The mother was aware of this because she was having a conversation about this.

"It appears that they had some sort of disagreement and she decided she didn't want to go on and decided to get out."

Fay's mother rushed to the girl's side, and a passing motorist called an ambulance. Fay died of severe head injuries shortly afterwards at East Surrey Hospital in Redhill.

Mr Darby said yesterday that Mrs Greene was too upset to be interviewed.

Birthday youth walks away from triple-death crash

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

A YOUTH who had been celebrating his eighteenth birthday was trapped for hours in the wreckage of a car in which three friends died when it crashed down an embankment.

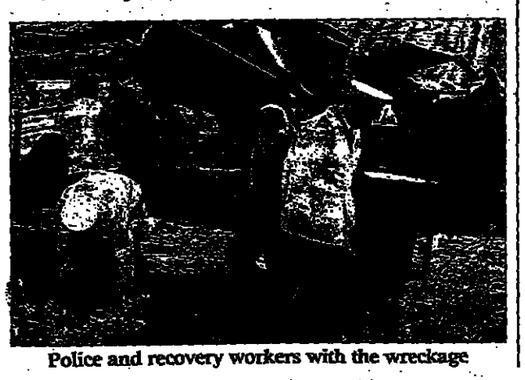
Stephen Wylie, his memory blanked out by shock, eventually freed himself and staggered to a railway station. He telephoned his parents, who took him to Nevill Hall Hospital in Abergavenny, Gwent, with a broken arm and concussion. Hours later a local police constable realised Stephen was a close friend of the dead sixth-formers and linked him to the crash.

Police were called to the accident at 6.15am when a woman motorist saw the wreckage at first light. Traffic officers followed a trail of damage where the car had overturned and skidded on its roof, smashing into an electricity pole, uprooting a tree, crashing through a fence and knocking down a lamppost. It ended in a ploughed field. Power to villages was cut off.

The four youths had played in a Maundy Thursday match at Abergavenny Rugby Club between their school's First XI and an old boys' team. It is believed they continued celebrating late into the night with about fifty other friends and decided to have a late-night drive in the car, which belonged to the parents of one of the boys.

The victims — two aged 17 and one 16 — were friends from the villages of Maerdy and Govilon. Fire Officer Jeff Mears said: "The car was only recognisable as a Peugeot by badges on the wheel trims."

Harold Burrows, an ambulanceman, said that it was the worst crash he has seen in 14 years' service.



Police and recovery workers with the wreckage

Two die in car being followed by police

BY A STAFF REPORTER

TWO men were killed when their car crashed yesterday while being followed by police. A two-year-old boy, his mother and another man were seriously injured.

Four people have been killed since February in cars being pursued by Thames Valley Police, which is referring the latest accident to the Independent Police Complaints Authority.

The patrol car began following the Ford Escort at 2am when it was seen crossing a give-way sign. The Escort accelerated away towards Newbury on the A4 and crashed through the garden wall of a public house.

The driver, Lawrence Spence, 28, who had been banned from driving last August, and his front seat passenger Prince Albert Davis, 28, died instantly. Zoey Jakubiszyn, 21, her son Leighton Davis, and Leroy Stoddart, in his 20s, were last night seriously ill with head injuries at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading. All are from Whitley Wood, Reading.

Sergeant Tim Small, of Reading police, said the car was being followed rather than chased. He added: "Deaths involving the police are high in the minds of the public. We have to be seen to be doing our job properly. The only way of doing that is bringing in the media and complaints authority and being up-front and giving the details of what happened."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Trading ban frustrates green-fingered shoppers

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

MILLIONS of people planning to visit DIY stores and garden centres tomorrow will be disappointed to find them closed. New Sunday trading laws ban large shops — those with a covered area of over 280 square metres — from opening on Easter Sunday but retailers fear thousands of shoppers in England and Wales are unaware of the rule.

Garden centres claim they in particular will be badly affected because Easter is traditionally the start of the gardening season and many nurseries take 25 per cent of their April trade on Easter Sunday. "It the biggest Sunday of the year," Neville Johnson, of the Horticultural Trades Association, said.

"We are concerned about the effect it will have on trade but our hands are tied because it is the law and we are not encouraging centres to break the law."

Some centres are going to extraordinary lengths to open legally, from applying for a liquor licence to holding charity markets. They will not, however, be able to sell plants. Dundry Nurseries in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, is holding a "gardeners' party" to celebrate half a century of trading but will not sell any gardening products.

"We wanted to make a statement about the stupidity of the law," Chris Evans, the centre's owner, said. "We applied for a liquor licence because we have been here for 50 years and this is the first time our trade has been forcibly interrupted."

Turbary House Garden Centre in Preston, Lancashire, is holding a car boot sale and charity football match to avoid turning away prospective shoppers.

Other centres will remain closed and Alan Strickland, the HTA's director-general, said there would be chaos on the roads as shoppers tried to reach garden centres that were closed.

The association's 1,800 members are still smarting from the effect of the 1994 Sunday Trading Act, which restricted opening hours for large nurseries and supermarkets to six hours on a Sunday. Small outlets are not bound by the same rules and stores in Scotland are not affected.

Some garden centres claim the new regulations have reduced trade by 20 per cent even before the spring and summer seasons begin. Mr Evans said: "Restricted hours on a Sunday are really denting our trade. People do not realise that we have to close early. They get upset when we shut the car park."

The British Retail Consortium said DIY stores had expressed concern over lost trade. "It is one of their busiest days of the year," a spokeswoman said. B&Q and the Asda supermarket chain said they had been making strenuous efforts to inform shoppers that their stores would be closed tomorrow.

Stores reflect on day of rest

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

RETAILERS are likely to forgo hundreds of millions of pounds after Parliament's decision to keep shops shut on Easter Sunday. Richard Hyman of Verdict, the retail research firm, said: "Shopping malls are packed on Sundays and that is consumer spending which will be lost this weekend."

For many retailers, Sunday is now the second busiest day of the week. It is particularly important for DIY stores and furniture chains who generate up to a quarter of their sales on a Sunday, and for whom Easter has traditionally been very busy.

W.H. Smith, which owns Do It All, the DIY chain, said trade had been strong last Easter Sunday and so it was irritating to be forced to close this year. A spokesman said: "The weather being what it is, there will be some disappointed retailers and some disappointed customers."

Sir Philip Harris, chairman of Carpetright, said: "If we had a choice we would love to open but it not a disaster. To lose one Sunday and gain 51 is a good deal."



For sale: RAF Upper Heyford, where 3,000 American military personnel and 4,000 dependants were stationed

Airfield sales add to peace dividend

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Ministry of Defence is hoping to raise hundreds of millions of pounds through the sale of 22 airfields made redundant since the end of the Cold War. The RAF airfields, covering more than 20,000 acres, appear on a "for sale" list of MoD real estate that also includes six Army bases.

After the sale of the 1,000-acre RAF Bentwaters site near Ipswich to the Maharishi Yogi Foundation for an estimated £10 million, the former American base at RAF Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire is the next in line for a lucrative deal.

Upper Heyford was one of the key bases for the US Third Air Force during the Cold War, housing 82 F111 bombers ready to launch attacks on Soviet targets. The last aircraft left in December 1993 and the 1,200-acre site is expected to be sold soon for an exclusive housing development. A spokesman for Savills, the agents handling the bids for Upper Heyford on behalf of the MoD, said it had two million square feet of "usable" buildings that would make up part of a substantial development plan.

Among the other airfields for sale are Farnborough in Hampshire (833 acres) and Greenham Common in Berkshire (1,100 acres). The Army bases include the Royal Arsenal East (15 acres) and West (76 acres) in Woolwich.



Easter faith can give us hope

George Carey

Can one still have confidence in the Christian cause? Hasn't Christianity become completely incredible and incomprehensible at least in its European heartlands? Those questions, asked by Hans Küng in his new book *Christianity*, are as familiar here as in Germany.

They are not to be avoided. Easter is a good time to confront them by looking afresh at the two primary symbols of the Christian faith, the cross and the empty tomb. The first is a *fact*. Christ died; it was an event in history. But it was hardly something to boast about. To a Roman citizen it was a scandal, to a believing Jew a divine curse; to an educated Greek a contemptible folly. Yet from the beginning of the Christian story the cross was displayed by believers as a proud symbol of their faith. It is a sign of God's justice. Christ's death atones as no other death does in making peace through the blood of the cross. For the early believers it was a profound statement that the crucified Jesus had not remained dead but had triumphed over the grave.

Linked to that was their second symbol, the empty tomb, which was both a *fact and a confirmation*. For Christians it remains a source of profound hope. That was why those first Christians changed their holy day from Saturday to Sunday, the day of the resurrection. That is why the writings of the New Testament are from beginning to end a witness to the resurrection. It also explains the new-found boldness in formerly craven disciples. Now all these things can be interpreted in other ways — but, at the least, they ask those who don't believe to give them serious consideration.

Easter, in short, is The Event that created the Church and it is still the basis of all we believe and stand for.

As we confront these questions, so the Easter events in turn judge the Church as much as they judge the world. They call for a fresh re-evaluation of Church life and of Christian service and mission. They force us to ask the questions: where in our churches can we find the simplicity of lifestyle that marked the first Christians? Where among us is the joy and hope that characterised their preaching? Where in the Church today is the risk and excitement of faith that made the following of Christ such an adventure?

Some might fear that that early sense of excitement and adventure has been lost. I do not. It is not just abroad in many parts of the Anglican Communion that a living faith flourishes, even in the midst of famines and civil wars.

Here in England, too, I see many signs of life — a fresh vitality, which combines with a new determination to preach and live authentic faith. The 600 projects of the Church Urban Fund continue to bring spiritual hope as well as social and physical well-being to many parts of our inner cities.

Young people are being offered a new experience of God through services structured to their needs. The leaders of Springboard are discovering a deep spiritual hunger in many people in our land. Delighted letters arrive weekly at Lambeth describing the excitement of encounters with the living God. So why at times do we lose sight of this great inheritance? Well, sometimes we can find ourselves living as "Holy Saturday" Christians. The problems and questions that confront us individually, as a Church, nationally and globally can easily drag us down. There seems to be little to hope for, and no power available to change things. If that is the case for us this Easter, then we need to pray to recapture the life-changing experience of the original disciples on that first Easter Day.



When I was a vicar in Durham I was also a chaplain to a remand prison. I remember one man who seemed to be destined to be detained for life in one of Her Majesty's institutions. His background, his personality and peer pressure all worked powerfully against him. I became aware, however, that he was showing an interest in spiritual things. He started to ask questions about God, about life, about the meaning of the cross and so on.

He began to see that the cross was not the end of the story but the entry point to forgiveness and new life. His life was changed and remains so to this day.

At the heart of his faith lay his discovery of the risen Christ. There is no substitute for Easter faith. It alone can give us confidence in the present and hope for the future. That is why I can answer Küng's first question with a firm "yes", because for me the heart of Christianity is not the Church but Christ himself. He is both the source and the goal of a living faith for today.

☐ *Dr George Carey is Archbishop of Canterbury.*

At Your Service, Weekend, page 2

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Wife's obsession with art blamed for double death

BY RICHARD DUCE

GROWING marriage problems between a reclusive property dealer and a wife absorbed in art and spiritualism were being blamed last night for a murder and a suicide.

A body discovered in Humberside nine days ago was formally identified yesterday as that of Alena Rink, 53. Her husband Martin, 49, had later been found dead at their home in Birmingham. He had left a note warning relatives of "something terrible having happened".

Police were searching the house in the suburb of Edgbaston yesterday to establish whether Mrs Link had been murdered there or elsewhere before her badly battered body was dumped near Middleton-on-the-Wolds. She was identified by her former husband, Robin Paice, who travelled to Humberside from Birmingham.

Detectives are piecing together a picture of the troubled ten-year marriage between Mr Link, an Oxford graduate, and his wife, who had dual British-Slovak nationality. She had taken up a university art course and he felt that she no longer supported him enough in his business.

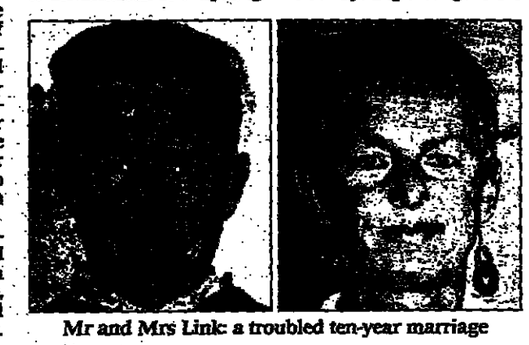
The couple had separated over Christmas but got back together. Their friends do not recall seeing Mrs Link after April 2. Mr Paice said yesterday that his former wife had undergone a personality change after starting the art course at the University of Central England last summer. "She had become absorbed in her art work and spiritualism to the exclusion of everything else," he said. Joseph Paice, the son of Mr Paice by his marriage to Mrs Link, said that his mother "switched off from me and Martin and preferred to be by herself. She became distant."

Mr Link's cousin, Doreen Sunter of Leeds, said yesterday that he had been a changed man since his second marriage to Alena in 1982. "He used to have lots of friends, always playing tennis and squash, and flying. But after he met Alena he never seemed to do anything ever again. He lived life as a loner and his business started to suffer. After a while he became almost like a housewife and Alena went out and did everything she wanted to."

Detective Inspector Grahame Bullock of Humberside Police said that it was the "most likely probability" that Mr Link had killed his wife and committed suicide. He died after taking a mixture of lemonade and anti-freeze.

Mrs Link's body appeared to have been wrapped in a roll of red carpet for the journey to Humberside. There were red fibres at the Birmingham house but no trace of the carpet. "There is also no trace of her blood at the scene, so there is a missing red carpet which may be heavily bloodstained. That could be anywhere between Birmingam and Humberside," Mr Bullock said.

Mr Link's father, Harry, said: "I can't believe my son could have done it. I talked to Martin last Saturday and he was perfectly all right. He had been a bit strained during the week."



Mr and Mrs Link: a troubled ten-year marriage



Pavarotti after his well-received performance

Illness fails to silence Pavarotti

BY MARIANNE DARCH

THE tenor Luciano Pavarotti was recovering yesterday after his well-received three-hour performance in the demanding lead role in Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera*, despite recent illness.

Pavarotti admitted he found his performance as King Gustaf III of Sweden "very tiring — and very scary". Glowing reviews dispelled fears that a lingering bout of bronchitis contracted in South America would mar his opening performance at the Royal Opera House. Instead Rodney Milnes of *The Times* enthused that "the freshness and virility of his tone is simply astonishing".

In his dressing room the 59-year-old Pavarotti said: "Arriving in England not in perfect condition, I did not know if I could do it. I was very pleased for most of the performance."

He plans to rest for a few days before his next performance and will launch a fragrace, Pavarotti for Men, at Harrods on Wednesday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Annie Leibovitz at camp OJ

The big players, the bit players — plus the witnesses and the lawyers . . .



Annie Leibovitz, the great star photographer, captures the participants inside and outside the courtroom while Russell Miller reports on the search for truth at the trial of the century

The Magazine — The Sunday Times tomorrow

Police call for girl's killer to be named

BY PAUL WILKINSON

DETECTIVES investigating the murder of Lindsay Rimer yesterday appealed to her community to give up the killer they are convinced lives among them.

Detective Inspector Graham Sunderland said they were sure someone in Lindsay's home town of Hebden Bridge in West Yorkshire must know the 13-year-old girl's killer or suspect someone. "They must contact us, however difficult it is, even if it turns out they are wrong," he said. "If they give us the information we will ascertain if they are wrong. If they feel they are right they have got to ring us.

"The man we are seeking could be someone's husband, son or brother. We are asking people to look round at people they know, people they live with, people they associate with, or indeed their partners and ask themselves certain questions."

Lindsay's body was found on Wednesday weighted down with a 20lb stone in a canal less than two miles from her home. She had disappeared five months ago after going to a corner shop to buy cereal.

The cause and time of her death have not yet been established. Tests on tissue samples are expected to take a week. Minute examination of the canal is continuing.

Man held in 'bogus nurse' case

A 28-year-old man alleged to have been posing as a nurse has been charged with assault on a patient by giving an injection. He is also accused of deception by working as an agency nurse.

The alarm was raised by another nurse at the Royal Gwent Hospital in Newport. The unnamed man will appear before Newport magistrates after Easter.

Turret injury

A workman was seriously injured yesterday with 20 per cent burns after being electrocuted in one of the turrets on Tower Bridge in London. He is thought to have touched a high-voltage cable.

Doorman shot

A doorman at the Hacienda club in Manchester was shot dead as he cycled home in the early hours yesterday. Police are still trying to establish a motive. Terry Farrimond, 26, was shot three times

VE-Day wipe-out

Organisers of a VE-Day street party in Weymouth returned 5,000 hand wipes because the labels were in German, only to be told the alternatives were in Japanese. "We declined," a spokesman said.

Players attacked

Gerry Creaney, the Portsmouth striker, and Mark Chamberlain, who plays for Brighton, were in hospital after being attacked by a gang outside a nightclub in Southsea, Hampshire.

Grin and bare it

Naturists say they will ignore a council decision to end the nudist status of a beach on Humberside. East Yorkshire Borough Council said it had had complaints of Peeping Toms at Fraisthorpe.

Due to an error in Lloyd's Shipping Register over the size of *Baffin Bay*'s engine, a report (March 27) about Spanish trawler capacities may have implied that the owners of the ship had misrepresented her horsepower to the Department of Transport. We accept that this was not the case and offer our apologies to the owners.

Goodall receives wildlife award

BY RICHARD DUCE

THE British ethologist Jane Goodall has been awarded the National Geographic Society's most highly regarded award for her study of chimpanzees in east Africa.

Dr Goodall received the Hubbard Medal, named after the society's first president, at the White House from Vice-President Gore on Thursday. The medal recognises distinction in exploration, discovery and research.

Dr Goodall began studying chimpanzees at Gombe in Tanzania more than 30 years ago and established not only that they were meat-eaters but that they fashioned tools to fish out termites. Tool-making had been thought to divide man from other creatures. Gilbert Grosvenor, president of the society, said: "Until she came on the scene, Western science did not even consider the idea that non-human primates might have minds. Jane Goodall has profoundly changed the way man sees his closest animal relatives."



Goodall: pioneering study

Dr Goodall, 59, said: "This is a very wonderful moment for me. I am just incredibly honoured to receive it."

Her work at Gombe began in 1960, and she gained a PhD in Ethology at Cambridge and wrote several books. She monitored chimpanzees by Lake Tanganyika and noted their nest-building and communication, as well as a violent side.



HOW DO YOU PROTECT YOURSELF OUT ON THE STREETS?

To feel safer on the streets, go out with the new Fiat Punto. Its range of safety features which include side impact bars, reinforced bodyshell, seatbelt pre-tensioners and optional twin airbags, make it one of the safest cars in its class. So it's hardly surprising that the Punto has been voted European Car of the Year 1995. No doubt the judges were also impressed by the stylish individual look of the Punto and the spacious interior. Not to mention the optional power steering, air conditioning and ABS. Prices start from £7,199* on the road, and there's also the option of Easiplan, Fiat's personal contract purchase plan. See below for details. To meet your new bodyguard call 0800 71 7000 or visit your Fiat dealer.

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Beside the lake, beneath the trees, a host of trippers ill at ease

BY KATE ALDERSON

■ Last year nearly 21 million tourists came to Britain and the number is predicted to double over the next decade. While these sightseers threaten to overwhelm the historic cities and scenic countryside they come to enjoy, they also bring much-needed income to local communities. In this, the first of a three-part series, Times reporters examine the conflict between the tourist industry and our national heritage



TRIPPERS will flock to the country's most treasured sites this weekend, bringing congestion and litter, but also spending their money in areas that increasingly depend on sightseers for their income. Many of them will make the slow journey along the M6 to the Lake District.

Most of these will head for Windermere, its neighbouring towns of Ambleside and Bowness, the popular walks to Helvellyn and Grizedale and the short car journey to Wordsworth's cottage at the North end of the lake.

Nowhere else in the Lake District are the commercial pressures more apparent than around Windermere, a small village that has been transformed in turn by the railways, the romantic poets Wordsworth and Coleridge and finally by tourism.

Visitors will pack the teashops, scatter litter through the streets, jam the winding roads and trample the worn hillsides with hikers' boots. But they will also leave behind their money.

Last year 15 million visitors to Cumbria spent £446 million and kept one in six people employed. But this success has heightened concern about damage to the Cumbrian wilderness.

The National Park authority has highlighted 90 areas of track and hillside that need urgent repair, including 2,000 miles of eroded pathways. The walk up to the 3,113ft summit of Helvellyn exemplifies the conservationists' concerns. The late Alfred Wainwright, author of dozens of books on fellclimbing, once said: "There is no doubt it is climbed more often than any other mountain in Lakeland and more than any other it is the objective and ambition of the tourist who does not normally climb." Helvellyn's popularity has been its downfall. Ten years ago the pathway to the summit was just a few feet wide; today it has expanded to 30 feet. Repair work, as on many other popular routes, is regular and rangers try to encourage walkers to take different routes. The Lake District Tourism and Conservation Partnership was established a year ago to promote such repair projects and to educate the tourist industry on how to preserve the environment.

It was the first time the English Tourist Board, the Lake District National Park, the Rural Development Commission, the National Trust and Cumbria Tourist Board had acted in concert. Haydn Morris, of the Cumbria Tourist Board and chairman of the partnership steering committee, said: "In the past, conservation and tourism interests have been polarised and there has been conflict.

"By working together the two sides can achieve a lot more in terms of conservation and developing the economy of the area. People come to the Lakes purely for the landscape; we have to keep that intact at all costs."

Recent research showed Cumbrian business people were beginning to realise they had to put something back into the land from which they were making money.

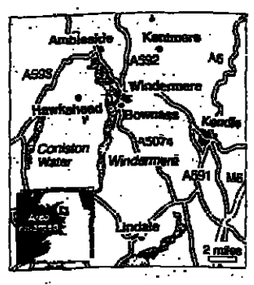
Claire Owen manages the partnership scheme and is attempting to harness this growing concern. She is also trying to extend the tourist season to diversify traffic levels and encourage people to avoid "honeypot" areas.

Threats to restrict visitor numbers, to charge for entry to the National Park or to ban cars have been the subject of speculation for most of the century.

But those involved in the running of the park have avoided imposing restrictions in the belief that everyone should have access to the countryside and that attempts at preservation should be voluntary. Bob Cartwright, head of park management, believes bans and restrictions are a simplistic solution but accepts they could have a limited role. This summer a number of new traffic management schemes will be in place.

"They include schemes which impose a 40mph speed limit on certain roads, including that from Kendal to Windermere and restrictions on lorries and buses," said Mr Cartwright.

Traffic projections suggest vehicle numbers will double in 30 years. Mr Cartwright said: "We must learn now how to best manage our problems while the pressure is off, while we have time to experiment. We have to ensure the special qualities remain."

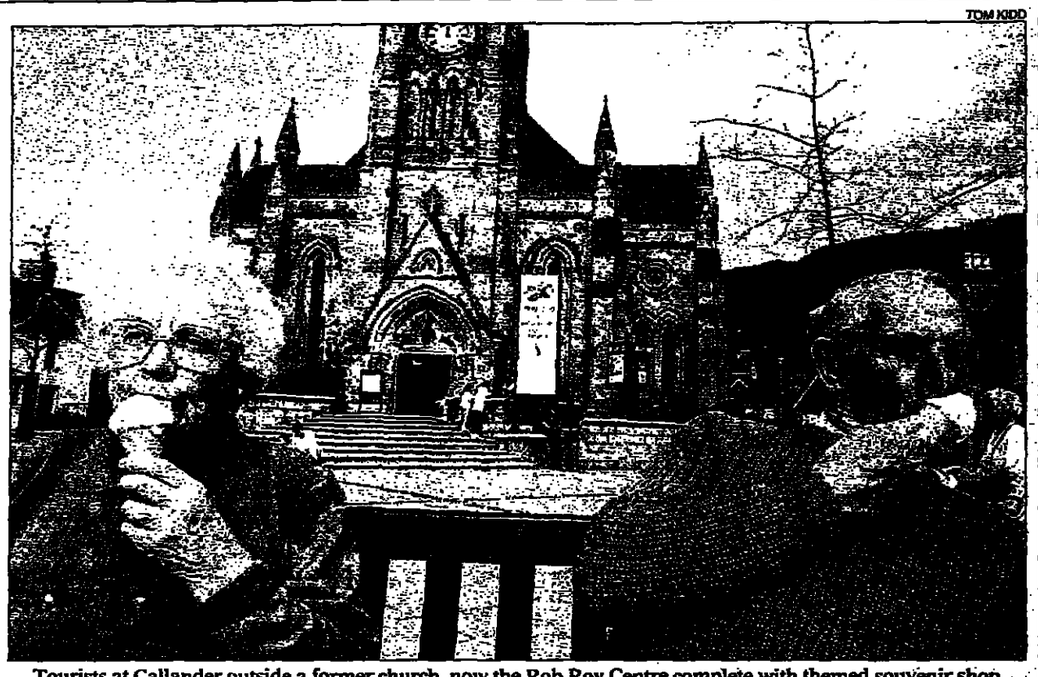


Kitsch greets tourists drawn to glens that inspired generations of writers

How Doctor Finlay gave Trossachs a headache

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

TOM KIDD



Tourists at Callander outside a former church, now the Rob Roy Centre complete with themed souvenir shop

THE pen of Sir Walter Scott and a BBC film crew have conspired to turn the towns of Callander and Aberfoyle in the Trossachs into two of the worst examples of Scottish kitsch, where tartan-fronted cafés and chip shops vie with garish souvenir stores along the crowded streets.

The once peaceful villages that proclaim themselves "the Gateway to the Trossachs" and "the Gateway to the Highlands" first became popular tourist destinations in late Victorian times when Sir Walter Scott's poem *Lady of the Lake* and his novel *Rob Roy* were at the height of their popularity.

His eulogising of the Trossachs countryside, the now defunct railway and the Victorians' love of spas initially brought well-heeled visitors to marvel at the scenery. A visit by Queen Victoria made it the fashionable place to escape the grime of Glasgow and by the 1890s there were six coaches a day ferrying tourists between Callander, Aberfoyle and the nearby lochs.

But it was with the filming in the 1960s of the BBC television series *Doctor Finlay's Casebook* that Callander's fate was sealed. It retained enough of its pre-war charm to make the perfect setting for the series and so the quiet town nestled beneath Ben Ledi (the mountain of God) became the fictional Tannochbrae. For 200 episodes, 14 million people tuned in and savoured the stunning settings, the small town gossip and the sight of housekeeper Janet cooking herrings in oatmeal.

Almost overnight Callander became a fashionable tourist spot once more. In 1967, 20,000 visitors a week descended on the town, looking for Arden House and the Thornshaw Isolation Hospital. More than 3,000 visitors a day passed through The Crown Hotel, which at one time sold more meals a day than anywhere else in Scotland.

The 2,000 residents were quick to exploit this new-found industry. The small local shops where Janet bought her herrings and thermal underwear gave way to the ubiquitous glass-fronted woollen mill shops selling cut-price ladies' sweaters, lengths of tweed and tartan tammies. On bank holidays, the town centre, described as "bustling" in the tourist literature, comes to a standstill with traffic and tourists. Few of them can resist the temptation of a tartan frontage. The church in the centre of town has been turned into the Rob Roy Visitor Centre, complete with themed souvenirs.

Aberfoyle, eight miles away, boomed on the back of Callander's popularity. Ye Olde Shoppe, selling twee dolls and ornaments, and its adjacent café, advertising hamburgers, have opened. The Scottish Wool Centre, incorporating the Sheep Show, was built there and the Rob Roy Motel on the edge of town offers dinner, bed and breakfast for £20 a head during high season.

So commercialised has Callander become that the new series of *Doctor Finlay* has had to be filmed in Auchtermuchty in Fife. But that hasn't stopped Callander from continuing to trade on its Tannochbrae association. The town still boasts the Tannochbrae Chalet Park and the Tannochbrae Garage. Auchterada, which doubled as Arden House in the series, has been renamed after its television reincarnation and takes paying guests.

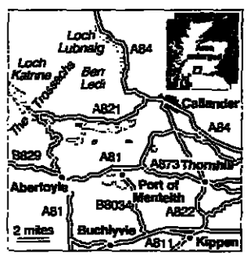
There are many who feel that *Doctor Finlay* has ruined Callander for good. "There is no life left here," says one local. "There is not the right atmosphere for tourism.

Another adds: "Callander's been ruined with the useless shops and the endless cafés. It's lost its charm. The day trippers leave litter and the town is often congested with traffic. *Doctor Finlay* was a mixed blessing."

Jim Greig, warden at Tannochbrae Chalet Park, admits that some of the boarding houses and hotels have had a tough time but believes tourists will keep coming. "We have people coming back year after year for the peace and quiet. That's all we have to offer them," he said. "They don't come here for the shops. We had three poor years but things have picked up."

The tourist board figures appear to back up Mr Greig's claims. In 1983 the information centre in Callander had 17,300 inquiries. Last year that number was 185,500. The stunning scenery of the Trossachs with its lochs and mountains continues to attract visitors and Callander and Aberfoyle, only an hour's drive from Glasgow, will always attract bank holiday trippers.

The Scottish Tourist Board has dropped the traditional bagpipes and haggis imagery from its marketing campaign but the figures for Callander and Aberfoyle suggest there are still plenty of tourists who want to visit the Scotland of the shortbread tin, buy cut-price woollens and stop for clootie dumpling and tea.



A price worth paying in Constable vale

BY JOHN YOUNG

FLATFORD MILL, a mile or so from where Constable was born, was a subject to which the painter often returned. The Stour Valley and the surrounding Suffolk villages, known as Constable country, seem to represent an unspoiled England of water meadows, grazing cattle, half-timbered houses, thatched cottages and grand parish churches.

But at peak weekends the idyll is shattered by tens of thousands of tourists. Car parks are overflowing and the narrow lanes choked with traffic. Flatford, a picturesque collection of timber-framed farmhouses and cottages is all but submerged by crowds, and important wetland wildlife habitats are put at risk.

The reaction from tourists and locals is mixed. On a recent spring day, before the Easter charabancs come roaring through at the start of the tourist season, Alan George, of Halstead, Essex, was introducing two Canadian visitors to the delights of Constable country. How did Mr George view the imminent invasion? "We all want our heritage preserved for everyone to enjoy, but to some extent that spoils what you come to see," he replied, adding: "If you are going to have this sort of thing it's got to be better managed."

His friend Pat Krieger, from Etobicoke, near Toronto, said that as a tourist herself she could hardly be party to any scheme to keep tourists out. But visitors did tend to abuse what they saw by, for example, dropping litter. "At home a lot of our attractions like Niagara Falls have been far too commercialised and I am afraid the same thing could happen here."

Philip Hyne and his wife Linda recently moved to Brandon in Suffolk. "This is the best time to come," he said. "I would never come at a weekend. Ideally, I'd rather there were no other tourists at all, but of course that's impossible."

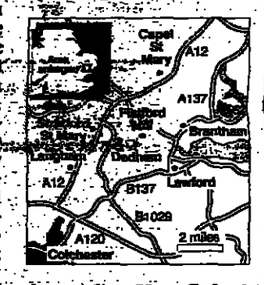
In a kiosk selling postcards and souvenirs, Patricia Jerrett also confessed to being in two minds. "Obviously, the more people who come here the better for trade," she said. "But, speaking personally, I would prefer fewer people. If tourist attractions are widely advertised, then it is no good being resentful about too many people visiting them."

The nearby village of Dedham last year showed signs of rebellion against the coach parties which, it was said, not only cluttered the streets but invaded their privacy by staring through their windows.

Maurice MacWilliam, chairman of the Dedham Vale Society, said there were not enough facilities. Providing more would only encourage extra people to come. It was the traders, not the villagers, who enticed the tourists. He called on the tourist authorities to refrain from further publicity, and since then Colchester council has all but dropped any mention of Dedham from its promotion brochure.

But not all local people agree with Mr MacWilliam. Outside the village grocery, Judy Blackmore said she quite liked tourists. "I think they bring life into villages like this but I may be in a minority and I don't live right in the middle of the village."

William Blackaller, who spent 30 years as a printer at *The Times*, said: "I think it is the old story. We don't like these things in our own back yard. People who live in tourist areas do get peeved at certain times of year. But if they stop to think about it they would realise the economic benefits that tourism brings."



Pilgrim millions create Canterbury tale of conflict

ADRIAN BROOKS



100,000 visitors a day seek the city's attractions

BY BILL FROST

CANTERBURY'S tourism officer is haunted by a persistent nightmare. William Pettit dreams that the city he loves will become a victim of its popularity.

The crowds in the narrow lanes will come to a seething standstill and the cathedral will be packed like Oxford Circus Underground station during the rush hour. The tourist tide, he fears, will result in the murder of a cathedral city.

The ghosts of Chaucer, Marlowe, Keats, Dickens, Conrad and Maugham, all of whom lived in or wrote about Canterbury, will flee before the hordes.

One look at the coach park near the 12th-century cathedral is enough to justify his fears. On most mornings an acrid cloud of diesel fumes hangs over the tourists as they disgorge from their buses at the rate of 100,000 a day.

Every year, more than 2.5 million people spend more than £100 million in Canterbury. But today's pilgrims also bring congestion, pollution and resentment. "I would not be giving a true picture if I said there was no friction when foreigners span out across the pavements," Mr Pettit said.

His job is to capitalise on his city's charm while ensuring that those who live there are not driven to distraction by the invaders. He admits that sometimes the balance is almost impossible to maintain. "One of the regular points of friction comes with all those parties of French schoolchildren that arrive so early in the morning. They buy 'crazy foam' and spray themselves and anyone else who gets in the way."

Such difficulties pale into insignificance against the problems posed by ensuring each day that 100,000 visitors do not choose the same moment to converge on the cathedral, the West Gate museum or any other attraction. "Our plan is to pick up the tourists and shepherd them around the city's core sites so that there is a steady flow."

But the crush of tourists can only get worse as the city's popularity grows. Polly Anne Schwartz, an English literature graduate from New York, said that her party's visit had been blighted by "screaming kids" in the cathedral and "a general lack of planning" for the tourist. "I came here because of *Murder in the Cathedral* and *Canterbury Tales*. What I found was a crowded little town which wasn't really equipped for the number of people it attracts.

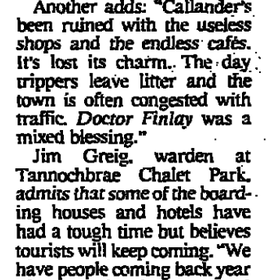
"I don't expect Disneyland where people are moved from attraction to attraction once the ride is over but I do want to be able to appreciate the beauty of Canterbury. The city is just too congested and we won't be coming back."

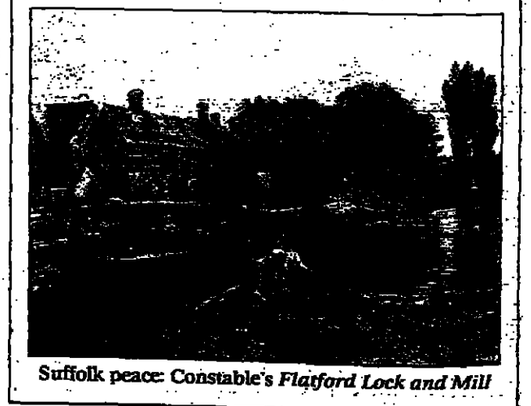
An elderly man born and bred in Canterbury took a different view. "I actually make my living from the tourist industry but that does not mean I have to like them. They are too thick on the ground these days and it's getting worse. The city council will have to take charge."

John Dorcan, an hotelier, has little time for those who complain about the visitors. "Without them we would not be earning a crust. Despite what the critics say, I would argue that tourism has improved the quality of life. Just go a few miles out of Canterbury into some of the worst unemployment blackspots in the South East and see what I mean."

However, William Pettit acknowledges there is a problem. "Canterbury has a population of 40,000 which is daily swelled by more than twice that number of visitors, all year round. I would say that we are winning so far but there has got to be a longer-term plan.

"We have a new larger coach park opening and we must look to pre-booking parties to ensure the city doesn't get full. Perhaps we should examine putting a limit on the number of coaches. The industry must be properly managed in the years to come, otherwise life will be intolerable for the residents and visitors alike."





Suffolk peace: Constable's *Flatford Lock and Mill*



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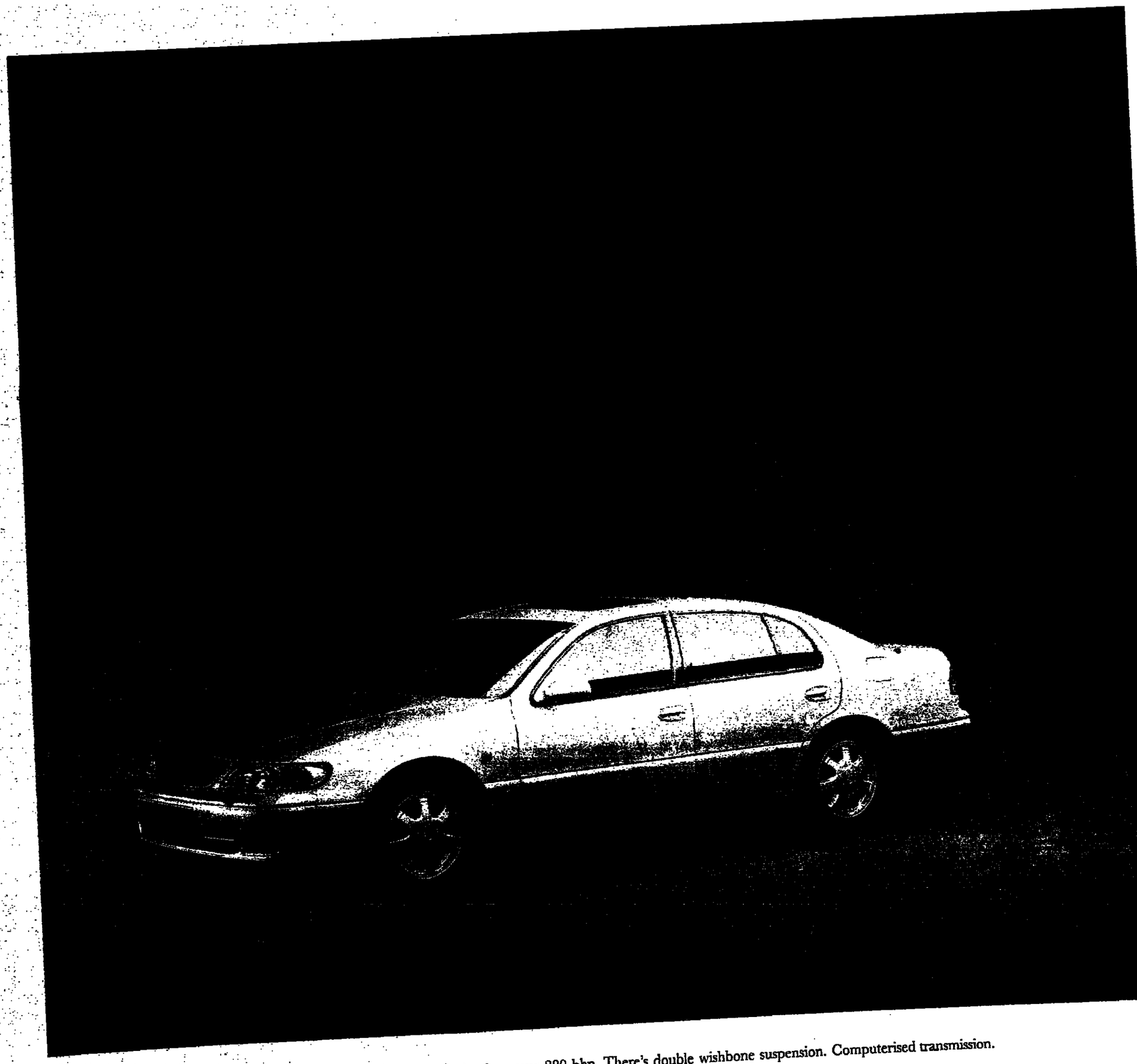
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Phone army stands by for dialling code switch-over

BY NICK NUTTALL AND ERIC REGULY

THOUSANDS of telephone engineers are preparing tonight to make the biggest change in the service for a quarter of a century.

Phoneday, the first step in expanding the stock of phone numbers, will make its debut early on Sunday when engineers in 700 BT centres slide behind computer terminals.

Inserting the digit 1 in the dialling prefix, so that 071 becomes 0171, for example, does not increase the total of numbers but is the first step towards introducing a new series of prefixes, such as 0271 and 0371. That will allow the number range to be reused many times. The Office of Telecommunications (Oftel) plans to introduce the 02 prefix next year.

The engineers will issue computer commands to 1,000 electronic exchanges, instructing them to bar the old codes. Callers using the old codes will be diverted to a recorded message in which the voice of Faith Hammond, a retired BT operator from Suffolk, will tell them to use the new code.

A BT spokesman said: "Engineers will be working progressively through the night, so that by between 8am and 9am, when people wake up, about 95 per cent of all exchanges will have been reprogrammed."

A handful of older exchanges covering 1,000 customers, mainly in rural Scotland and Wales, cannot be handled through computer commands. By Friday engineers should have visited them to switch over manually. The codes of Leeds, Bristol, Sheffield, Leicester and Nottingham will be replaced with a longer string of unfamiliar digits because of particular phone number shortages there.

Alan Croft, BT's Phoneday manager, does not anticipate many problems but one worry is that he might discover on Easter Day that a cable company has cut into a main BT line. That happened a few weeks ago, paralysing phone traffic between London and Birmingham.

Mr Croft thinks BT's operation will hold up well because the company has had three years to prepare for Phoneday. Even though the changes were stipulated by Oftel, BT's regulator, the phone companies are paying for its implementation.

About half of BT's £100 million Phoneday budget was used to finance network changes, such as new exchange software and storage capacity. Another £15 million paid for Phoneday advertising, including newspaper advertisements that featured teasing moments from sports history, such as a streaker at a Twickenham rugby match. "We've had a few people upset about them," Mr Croft said. The rest of the money paid for 900 "man-years" of labour.

BT said that 98 per cent of its customers were aware that the old codes would not work after today. But some businesses still had not to adapted their phone systems to recognise the new prefixes.

Mercury Communications, BT's largest competitor, said that most of its business clients were unaware that the overseas dialling code changes from 010 to 00. Many businesses had not adapted alarm systems that, when triggered, automatically dial the police, fire departments or security firms. Their insurance policies could be invalid if calls do not get through.

BT said that some business and domestic customers may face a modicum of frustration if they have automatic-dial fax machines, programmable switchboards or call-divert services.

Unless they have reprogrammed their systems, the machines will connect themselves to the recorded messages advising that the number has been incorrectly dialled.

PHONEDAY

RINGING THE CHANGES

- **Area codes, with five exceptions, will have "1" placed after the "0". For example, the 071 central London code becomes 0171: Cardiff changes from 0222 to 01222. The exceptions are Leeds, Sheffield, Nottingham, Leicester and Bristol, which get completely new codes. Leeds gets 0113; Sheffield 0114; Nottingham 0115; Leicester 0116; Bristol 0117.**
- **The international code from the United Kingdom changes from 010 to 00. The dialling sequence for Manhattan, for example, becomes 00-1-212, followed by the number.**
- **Some numbers do not change. They include mobile phone numbers, free numbers (such as those beginning with 0800), special local-rate numbers (such as those beginning with 0345), information and entertainment numbers, emergency service numbers and Telex codes.**
- **The free helpline number is: 0800 01 01 01.**



COLLIN BEERE

On the phone again: Faith Hammond reminds callers of the extra "1" they must dial

The voice that puts the wrong ones right

BY ERIC REGULY

THE telephone rings and rings. Faith Hammond sounds ever so slightly annoyed when she finally picks it up. She had been helping her arthritic husband, Ray, in the garden of their Suffolk home.

"We're trying to prune the roses, and the phone keeps ringing," Mrs Hammond says, sounding schoolmarmish rather than "plummy", her own description of her voice.

Mrs Hammond's is the voice on BT's recorded Phoneday announcements, reminding callers that they have forgotten the extra "1".

With the arrival of Phoneday early tomorrow morning, she has become something of a celebrity. But Mrs Hammond, 57, from Lowestoft, is mystified by the media interest. Her voice is already familiar to millions of Britons: "The number you have dialled has not been recognised," is one of her stock lines.

Unlike the actress Julie Berry, who "does" directory inquiries, Mrs Hammond has had no voice training. She retired as a BT supervisor in 1992 and is studying German, travelling the world with her husband and trying to avoid hearing her own voice.

"I don't like hearing myself," she says. "I want to sound reassuring and friendly, not like a schoolteacher."

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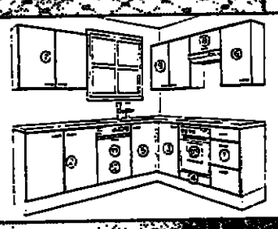
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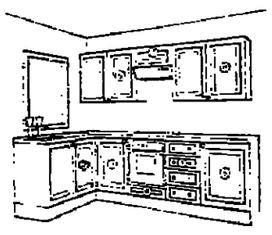
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Computer register of old pollution sites will warn property buyers

■ **A database of contaminated land could help homebuyers to avoid land prone to subsidence or gas explosions**

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A COMPUTER system that warns potential homeowners if the land they are buying is polluted or liable to subsidence is being set up by a company in London.

The database, which is backed by Ordnance Survey and the Midland Bank, details the environmental history of a site, dating back 150 years. It will warn buyers if land has been used, for example, as a rubbish tip or mine.

Thousands of homeowners and firms unwittingly buy land or buildings on polluted or dangerous sites. Years later, rotting underground rubbish can cause build-ups of explosive methane gas, or pit shafts can collapse, causing severe structural damage or making land unsaleable.

Estimates of the amount of contaminated or derelict land in Britain range from 70,000 to 200,000 hectares on up to 100,000 sites. Local authority and land registry searches by a solicitor often reveal only scant details of the environmental history of a site.

Craig and Natalie Bufton bought a one-bedroom starter home in Kenilworth, Warwickshire, in 1989. Two years later it started filling up with methane from an old rubbish tip below. "We paid £49,500 but overnight its value dropped to nil," said Mr Bufton. He is taking the surveyor and builder to court.

Residents at a five-year-old housing estate in Beckton, east London, are involved in legal action after complaining of a spate of mystery stomach upsets, skin rashes and headaches. Recently they learnt that the site was a former gasworks.

Their solicitor, Richard Meeran, claims tests have revealed high residues of heavy metals and chemicals, such as phenols, which have been linked with upset stomachs and are able to permeate water pipes.

The computer system, developed by Landmark Information Group, will gather current and historical data on a site or address at the touch of a button. Christopher Roper, head of Landmark, said: "There have been a whole lot of hazards people have not discovered until it is too late. We are bringing together information from 500 different sources including old classified directories.

"These will show if the land on which the property stands was, say, a forest or greenfield site 100 years ago or a gas works, a paint works or a lead foundry which could have contaminated the soil."

The database also includes 800,000 Ordnance Survey maps dating back to the early 19th century and the Department of Environment's landfill register. Pollution authorisations from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution are also included.

The system will be updated so that new contamination is also picked up during a search. The location of potentially polluting activities near to a site, such as petrol stations, dry cleaners and power stations, are also being added to the register.

Landmark hopes to launch the system by the summer and plans to charge £200 to £250 for a contaminated land report.

Adam Garfunkel, of Friends of the Earth, welcomed the system, but said he was disappointed it was not government-funded. "This kind of information should be freely and publicly available through local authorities. Instead it is being done by private enterprise and only available at a price," he said.



Residents of a Beckton estate complained of rashes

Those still alive had not eaten for a week. Water came from tanks polluted by corpses

Survivors bore witness to monstrous tyranny

BY JOHN YOUNG

FIFTY years ago today, British tanks advancing through a defeated Germany drove into a Nazi prison camp 60 miles south of Hamburg. What the soldiers found there horrified a world that had become acclimatised to violence, suffering and death.

Statistically, Belsen did not compare with Auschwitz: its victims were estimated at some 37,000 against 1,300,000. But Auschwitz and the other death camps had been deliberately located far away in eastern Europe, beyond the reach of the Allies in a region destroyed by slaughter on an unimaginable scale.

For newspaper readers and radio listeners in Britain, Belsen provided first-hand evidence that Nazi Germany was no ordinary enemy vanquished by the fortunes of war, but a monstrous tyranny that scorned any notion of humane and civilised conduct.

The cheery propaganda to which the British public had been subjected for the previous five years to maintain national morale was no longer needed. What Richard Dimbleby of the BBC and the war correspondents had to tell them was complete vindication of all that they had fought and suffered for. There could no longer be any doubt about the rightness of the Allied cause.

On the morning of April 15, 1945, the local German commander sought and obtained a truce under which the British would take over the camp. He reported that conditions were appalling and that typhus was rife. Lieutenant-Colonel Mervin Gonin, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, recalls that the *Wehrmacht* troops were allowed to leave, but the *SS* camp staff and the 1,500 Hungarians who had been stationed there as guards had to remain. The Hungarians were renowned for their vicious anti-semitism, and in the following 48 hours, before the British assumed full command, they shot 83 prisoners for minor offences such as stealing potato peelings from the kitchen.

That was as nothing compared with what the incoming troops discovered. The camp housed up to 60,000 inmates: Jews, gypsies, resistance fighters and political prisoners from Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Yugoslavia, Russia and Poland, including about 1,500 survivors from Auschwitz. Some 10,000, according to Colonel Gonin, were already dead.

Those still alive had eaten nothing for a week and before that had been rationed to a single bowl of soup a day and one twelfth of a 11b loaf of bread a week. The only water available was from tanks polluted by corpses. Most of the inmates were walking skeletons, diseased and mentally deranged from their experiences, and had been driven to eat the kidneys, livers and hearts of their deceased fellow prisoners.

The camp itself was bare of vegetation. The stench of death was overpowering. Corpses lay in huge piles and the survivors were racked by typhus, dysentery and tuberculosis. During the first week after liberation, 300 inmates died every day and after two weeks the death rate was still more than 60 a day.

Colonel Gonin recalls that German nurses recruited to tend the sick were at first truculent, laughing and joking and determined not to work for the British. When the first patients were brought in, the nurses gazed horror-struck and within minutes almost all were weeping uncontrollably. After that they worked unflinchingly. Many caught typhus and died, but others instantly volunteered to take their places.

There were no gas ovens at Belsen; its inmates were simply allowed to die of neglect, starvation and disease.

The camp commandant, Josef Kramer, was named the Beast of Belsen, a mocked and detested figure who symbolised the unfathomable evils of Nazism. He was tried by a British military court and executed.

☐ *Colonel Gonin's recollections appear in* Victory in Europe, *by Julian Thompson: (Sedgwick & Jackson, in collaboration with the Imperial War Museum)*



Josef Kramer, the Beast of Belsen, under guard



The unacceptable face of war: a Hungarian Jew, one of the few able to walk when Belsen was liberated

Gruesome scene a British soldier will never forget

RONALD ELY was a tank commander in the 23rd Hussars (John Young writes). He recalls that on the morning of April 15, 1945, a large German staff car flying a white flag suddenly drove into the 11th Armoured Division lines. From it stepped a Colonel Schmidt who demanded to see the general.

"To him he explained that there was a camp of some 60,000 prisoners on the far side of the River Aller, many of whom had typhus. He expressed the fear that, should fighting break out in the area of the camp, the prisoners might escape and spread disease far and wide, and he suggested a 48-hour truce to allow German forces out of the area.



"Asked to point out the position of this camp on the map, he indicated a small village in a thick wood, called Belsen." Negotiations broke down and the only points of agreement were that the entrance to the camp should be clearly marked, that there should be no fighting in the camp area, and that the Hungarian SS to be left in charge of the prisoners would wear white armbands.

"In our innocence, the thought did not cross our minds that the prisoners must be exceptionally vengeful to require such strict precautions against a breakdown," Mr Ely said.

"After meeting scattered opposition and mines, we reached the first notice proclaiming a typhus-infected area.

"We pushed on, the first British troops to enter Belsen. Lining the road were brown uniformed Hungarians, who were quite unabashed and even had the impudence to give the fascist salute.

"It was only a few days later, when our medical personnel gave us details which soon shocked the world, that we realised what a plague-spot we had uncovered.

"As I passed, I saw a German officer standing outside the main gate grinning and giving the Nazi salute. His was a face I shall never forget because a fortnight later, in hospital, I saw his photograph all over the front pages of the news. It was Josef Kramer, the infamous camp commandant."

Also among the first troops to enter the camp was Staff Captain William Williams, who was sent to discover what the needs of the inmates were.

"As we walked into the camp, two inmates approached me and were immediately shot down by escorting SS men. Everyone was in prison garb and they were dirty and unshaven, with shrunken faces.

"Some had been hanging on to the barbed wire for support and some had fallen into it.

"The stench was terrible. The further one went on into the camp, the more one became aware of the total horror."

Lord Runcie, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, then a 24-year-old officer in the Grenadier Guards, determined to visit the camp after hearing of its discovery.

"Some of us were in a jeep which we loaded with toys for children. How well-meaning and how pathetic it was, having regard to the scale and horror of what we encountered.

"The whole atmosphere, the stench and the ghost-like figures, are what I remember when I'm asked about being a soldier and what I feel about fighting in a war. A war that closed down Belsen was a war worth fighting."

The Jews who were kept alive to swap for captive Germans

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

AS FORMER prisoners of Belsen and their liberators met this weekend among the stark remains of the concentration camp, details were emerging of a secret exchange plan that saved the lives of some 550 Jews, and probably 5,800 more.

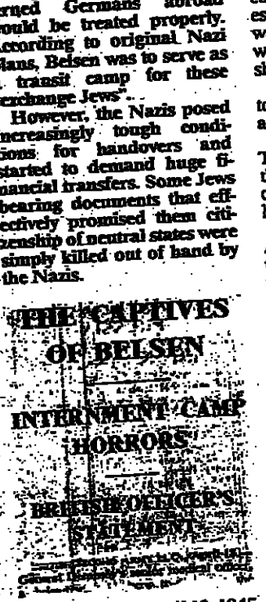
When British troops liberated the camp in northern Germany, they found thousands of so-called "exchange Jews" in 18 special barracks. Three months before Belsen's liberation, 301 of these Jews had been put on special train carriages with International Red Cross insignia and dispatched in the direction of Switzerland to be swapped for Germans interned in countries controlled by the Allies. Some 200 other Jews were saved in this way — the result of delicate indirect negotiations between the Nazis and the Allies — and the 5,000 still in Belsen probably owed their survival to their special status as would-be hostages.

Werner Hasenberg, writing in the Berlin *Die Tagezeitung* yesterday, recalled how he and the 300 other "exchange Jews" were herded into the Belsen showers to be cleaned before passing into Red Cross hands. "The hot steam killed the lice but immediately encouraged the birth of the next generation." They were loaded on to a train heading south. "As we woke up on the third day of our train journey, we found my father dead on his seat. He died from starvation and exhaustion," Mr Hasenberg recalled.

For the most part the "exchange Jews" possessed German passports or citizenship papers from the US, Ecuador, Haiti or Honduras, arranged through Sweden, to where passport photographs had been smuggled. Mr Hasenberg's father briefed his children to remember their fictional birthplace in Ecuador.

"It is pretty clear that the Nazis knew these papers were basically false," said Mr Hasenberg, who later became an economist for the American Government. As early as 1943, the German Foreign Ministry had devised a scheme whereby some Jews would be kept alive as hostages, ensuring that interned Germans abroad would be treated properly. According to original Nazi plans, Belsen was to serve as a transit camp for these "exchange Jews".

However, the Nazis posed increasingly tough conditions for handovers and started to demand huge financial transfers. Some Jews bearing documents that effectively promised them citizenship of neutral states were simply killed out of hand by the Nazis.


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The Times of April 19, 1945

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Stasi spy and West German lover she betrayed prove model couple for a united nation

Berlin's bunker betrothals

BERLIN FILE
by ROGER BOYES



MARRIAGES are supposed to be made in heaven, not in underground German bunkers. Some Berliners seem to have missed this lesson of modern German history. After all, Adolf Hitler's attempt to make an honest woman out of Eva Braun did not last long: it was, one might say, a marriage made only this side of Hell.

Yet the latest novelty is to spend one's honeymoon night in the bunker of the former East German leadership. About 26 miles northeast of Berlin, there are still "Trespassers will be Shot" signs nailed to the entrance of the concrete complex that was supposed to have been Erich Honecker's last refuge in time of nuclear war. There are a few traces of luxury, but it is a bleak place to consumate a marriage. The honeymoon offer is due to begin in May but already inquiries are flooding in. In the season of Easter engagements and daffodil weddings, there have been some strange unions. Perhaps the most curious is that of 53-year-old Karsten Voigt, the Social Democrat foreign policy and defence expert, and Brigitta Richter, 36, a former East German journalist. They plan to marry on June 17 — once known as Germany's Unity Day — and it seems on the surface to be a conventional East-West merger. Well, yes — except that Frau Richter once spied on her fiancé for the Stasi secret police. They met at an international conference in 1987. Frau Richter worked at the time for a foreign policy magazine, was the child of faithful communists and did not hesitate when the Stasi asked for information on her boyfriend.

Despite this the relationship has survived and even flourished. Conservative opponents of Herr Voigt view the whole matter with some glee — a prominent Ostpolitiker who has a grand passion for a Stasi agent conforms to every known right-wing political stereotype. But others take a more charitable view. Here at last, they say, is an encouraging model for the troubled relationship between the two German states.

Marriage is part of another broader German agenda. Christian Democrat-run Berlin is planning to merge with Social Democrat-led Brandenburg, the great swath of forest and lakeland around the German capital. It is a marriage of reason rather than love: administration costs can be cut, the industrial overspill from Berlin can find a home in the environs. However, it is worth studying historical maps: Berlin plus Brandenburg is virtually the rump of the old Prussian state. Another marriage pact sealed outside Heaven's gate.



All forgiven: Karsten Voigt has no secrets from fiancée Brigitta

Trail for old Nazis allowed to go cold

NAZI-HUNTING is certainly not the career of the future. The Ludwigsburg headquarters for Nazi investigations used to have 50 high-powered lawyers at its disposal. Now it has eight. By comparison there are 3000 experts ploughing through the files of the defunct secret police force of the defunct East German state.

New leads about old Nazis have turned up in the Stasi files — evidence that could identify those who set ablaze the Warsaw ghetto, who served in the special execution units on the Eastern Front, as well as doctors and orderlies who supervised medical experiments in the concentration camps.

These suspects are probably 80-year-old pensioners now, and right to feel safe in their bungalows. The East Germans, for their own reasons, did not pursue them. Now a shortage of staff in Ludwigsburg makes it almost impossible to follow up the clues unearthed in the Stasi archives. There is only one prosecutor assigned to this case and she has virtually no help, not even a computer. Sadly, Nazi-hunters seem to be an endangered species.

Outlook for MPs: sunny

EASTER is travelling time for Germany's overworked members of parliament. Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, has been expressing some irritation about the wanderlust of his party colleagues. Research trips to Honolulu or Hawaii, anywhere warmer than Hildesheim, have become a part of a German politician's stressful life. Shortly before Easter, five deputies saw a need to spend eight days in the United Arab Emirates and Oman (beachside temperature 30C, 86F).

The official explanation was: "The trip is connected with the deliberations for the 1995 budget and the current discussions on energy policy." The 1995 budget? Did that legislation not pass through parliament a month ago? Shortly before departure, Ina Albowitz, a Free Democrat, tried to reassure the sceptics. "Our programme is stuffed full with political talk. But I don't rule out half an hour on the beach here and there — I've not signed up for a 90-hour working week as a deputy." Quite.

Denktas faces his biggest test yet in presidential race

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

RAUF DENKTAS, the veteran Turkish Cypriot leader who has guided his people through the turbulent years of post-independence Cyprus to the security of a separate but unrecognised state, today faces a tough fight for re-election.

Once the presidential elections are over, international efforts will resume to find a solution to the Cyprus problem, which has bogged down United Nations peacekeepers, most of them British, for 31 years and been an irritant between Nato's feuding members, Greece and Turkey.

For the first time, Mr Denktas, a barrister trained at Lincoln's Inn, faces a challenge from Left and Right with an electorate disgruntled by economic difficulties and a growing sense of international isolation.

"Bye, bye," taunt the placards of Mr Denktas's opponents, while Turkey's *Cumhuriyet* newspaper commented: "This is by far the most uncomfortable election Denktash has ever faced. He has the support of only two small parties." However, few expect Mr Denktas, 71, to be ousted, although he may have to face a second round run-off next Saturday against his arch-rival, Dervis Eroglu, a rightwinger, or Ozker Ozgur, a moderate leftwinger.

"The tide is slowly turning against Mr Denktas — a second round would be the clearest sign of divisions among the Turkish Cypriots," a European diplomat said. "Mr Denktas's message is that the Cyprus problem is coming to a head and the people need a steady, proven helmsman."

For older voters, who remember the violent excesses of Greek nationalists before the island's division in 1974, Mr Denktas has provided what they most cherish: security. The sleepy state's 170,000 inhabitants, many of them working in the vastly overburdened state sector, have enjoyed a lotus-land lifestyle, protected by 35,000 mainland Turkish troops and subsisting mainly on generous handouts from Ankara.

Many of the younger generation, some of the brightest of whom have emigrated to Britain or Turkey, believe Mr Denktas is leading them nowhere. Their isolation was deepened by last year's European Union ban on trade and the economic situation is also dire, with inflation at 200 per cent and the per capita income a mere £1,750, less than a quarter that enjoyed by the Greek Cypriots.

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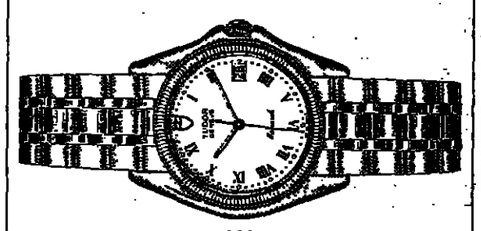
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Bosnian Muslims are armed by Iran with nod from US

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL BINYON IN MOSCOW

THE Clinton Administration's goal of supplying arms to the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina has been achieved but from Iran — a source that was causing intense embarrassment in Washington yesterday.

Senior American officials said the Tehran regime had sold hundreds of tons of weapons and ammunition to the mainly Muslim army with the Administration's tacit acceptance.

The revelation comes as President Clinton is arguing strenuously for Western countries and Russia to stop the shipment of any weapons to Iran, to reduce its military capability and ability to export fundamentalist terrorism.

In another sign that the conflict is driving a wedge between Moscow and Washington, the Russian Duma yesterday voted overwhelmingly for the lifting of United Nations sanctions on rump Yugoslavia, calling also for the country's readmission with full legal status to the UN and other international bodies.

Deputies called on President Yeltsin and his Government to take decisive steps to persuade the UN Security Council and the Contact Group to lift sanctions. Only two voted against and two abstained. The Duma vote is not binding, but it increases the pressure on the Russian Government to take a stronger pro-Serb line. The deputies said Yugoslavia had carried out all its obligations under various UN resolutions, and should no longer be considered an active participant in the fighting in Bosnia.

Deliveries of arms from Iran to Bosnia, in violation of a UN embargo, have been known about in intelligence circles for some time. An Iranian Boeing 747 loaded with arms was discovered in Zagreb last year, and deliveries through Croatian hands have become routine, with their forces taking a share. Iran's Revolutionary Guard are even said to be training the Muslim-led army. It is the first time, however, that there has been any suggestion of American compliance.

Under a congressional amendment last autumn, Washington is forbidden to enforce the UN arms ban against third countries. This has created rifts with Nato allies over intelligence sharing as American forces are not required to report violations.

The State Department was clearly embarrassed yesterday by reports that the Administration had even asked the Bosnian Government in Sarajevo to avoid imports of certain weapons which could endanger foreign peacekeepers, particularly ground-to-air missiles that might be used against relief or military flights. "We are not encouraging or cheering on the Iranians for what is happening and we are certainly not colluding with Iran," an official said. "But we do not feel we are in a position to intervene militarily because of the law passed by Congress last year."

British diplomats in Washington, said they doubted any American collusion but said many in the United States would welcome a levelling of the playing field in Bosnia. "All we know for certain is that we are certainly not involved and would regard it as unhelpful and improper to facilitate the breaking of the UN embargo," one said.

Mr Clinton and his senior foreign policy advisers are preparing to fight a proposal from Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader, to lift the arms embargo and start supplying weapons to the Muslims. Such a policy would set America at odds with Britain and its other Nato allies.

Foreign Legion sergeant killed

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

A SERGEANT serving with a French Foreign Legion unit was shot dead in Sarajevo yesterday, as peacekeepers in Bosnia-Herzegovina came under increasing pressure from intensified fighting and Serb blockades.

The soldier was riding in the turret of an armoured personnel carrier through a residential district when he was hit. The United Nations in the city said the killing was clearly deliberate. The victim, whose name was being withheld until his relatives are informed, is the 56th peacekeeper killed in three years in the former Yugoslavia.

Rebel Croatian Serbs are reported to have crossed the border into Bosnia to fight alongside renegade Muslims in a new push on the Bihac enclave. The UN said government troops may have lost some ground in the separatist offensive and artillery barrages.

There was continued fighting in north-central and northeastern Bosnia with an increase in Serb artillery attacks.



A Paris hoarding for an insurance company asks the seven candidates for the French presidency about their plans for the social security system

Alarm over 'dying President' remark by French TV host

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS



Mitterrand: "in perfect health" says an aide

OFFICIALS tried last night to quash alarm over the condition of President Mitterrand as the Socialist party squabbled over the political legacy of the outgoing French leader ahead of the election for his successor.

A flurry of rumours over the President's condition and his whereabouts followed remarks by Bernard Pivot, a television host, that M Mitterrand had appeared very ill when he recorded a programme with him on Tuesday. M Pivot said the President, who is suffering from an advanced stage of prostate cancer, had defied doctors' orders to appear on his show, which was to be broadcast last night. He said he admired M Mitterrand's courage and added: "I was facing a man who was probably giving his last interview as President."

A senior official last night denied that the President had suffered a relapse. "He has not been hospitalised. He is not in a coma ... He is fine, in perfect health," said Anne Lauvereon, his deputy chief of staff. The President, 78, was spending the Easter weekend in the south, she added. M Mitterrand is due to hand over to his successor by May 20, following the May 7 run-off in the presidential election. But he has indicated that he wants to leave his post soon after the ceremonies in the second week of May marking the 50th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany. The broadcast last night on *Bouillon de Culture*, France's top cultural programme, was part of M Mitterrand's effort to review his presidency and set the record straight on his 55 years of political life.

Governing of France, page 16

Russians assault Chechen bastion

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

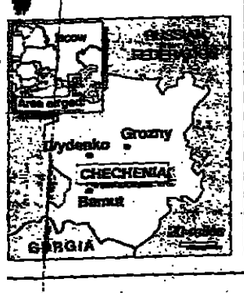
RUSSIAN troops yesterday launched an assault on the last rebel stronghold on the plains of Chechenia as evidence mounted of mass killings of civilians during the capture of another town a week ago.

The attack yesterday on the village of Bamut, 30 miles southwest of Grozny, was preceded by a ferocious artillery barrage.

Bamut capture would mean that only the Caucasus Mountains would remain in the hand of Chechen separatist forces. But Salambek Khadjiev, the head of the Russian-installed "Government of National Revival" in the occupied capital, Grozny, said it was too early to view military operations as over.

Russian officers have also said privately that they expect a "terrorist war" to continue, possibly for several years.

General Anatoli Kulikov, the commander of Russian forces in Grozny, was removed from his post yesterday and replaced by Mikhail Yegorov, another Interior Ministry general. The official explanation was that General Kulikov was "tired". But the replacement may be linked to growing claims that Russian troops massacred up to 250 people when they captured the town of Samashki last week.



Yeltsin acts to end Tajik rebellion

BY MICHAEL BINYON

FIGHTING continued yesterday along the frontier between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, with more soldiers from the Russian-dominated border troops reported killed. The battles raged amid fresh diplomatic moves by regional leaders to defuse the tension.

President Yeltsin had a further meeting with Andrei Nikolayev, the head of the federal frontier service, to discuss what extra measures should be taken. After a second day of talks in his holiday home in Sochi, he called for an urgent meeting of foreign and defence ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States to decide how to secure the CIS southern flank against cross-border attacks by Islamic insurgents seeking to overthrow the Tajik Government.

Six more soldiers from the CIS border force and 30 Islamic opposition fighters were killed in three hours of fighting late on Thursday, according to Anatoli Kuptsov, the Tajik Deputy Security Minister. A further two Tajik soldiers were shot dead on the outskirts of Dushanbe yesterday morning, Tass reported.

The presidents of the three neighbouring Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Khirgizia met in the Kazakh town of Chimkent to discuss how to quell the fighting. All have an interest in preventing the return of an Islamic fundamentalist regime to Tajikistan and in strengthening the pro-Moscow regime in Dushanbe.

Last night in Moscow a spokesman for the Russian armed forces denied Kabul Radio reports that Russian aircraft had bombed an Afghan border town on Thursday.

Patient cares for sick in Grozny hospital

BEVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A HALF-paralysed, bewildered woman named Malika — meaning Angel — has been discovered by British aid workers trying to care for abandoned patients at a huge hospital on the outskirts of the Chechen capital, Grozny.

Malika, 32, who was herself a patient after being badly injured in a car accident, took charge of the 31 survivors after Russia pulverised the city, according to the Merlin aid agency. Nearly 30 patients were killed during the Russian offensive and nobody knows where the doctors and nurses went.

There was no water and the patients, mostly old people, were just hobbling around," said Jessica Barry, who returned from Grozny, where the Merlin team of six people was the only British aid presence.

Ms Barry said: "The centre of the city has been destroyed and people are finding it difficult to resume any sort of regular regime." Merlin, which is trying to help local clinics to resume work and to start a mobile clinic, is working with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"Little markets are springing up, but they sell chocolate and Pepsi brought in by people from outside, not fruit or vegetables. There is no flour or sugar and people are living on tea and anything in tins they may have been able to save." Ms Barry said.

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Winnie Mandela dismissed for the second time

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

WITH barely time to return to her desk, Winnie Mandela, estranged wife of the South African President, was yesterday sacked for the second time as Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology.

Mrs Mandela had been reinstated last Wednesday after embarrassing the Government by refusing to accept her original dismissal without a legal struggle. It was always understood, however, that her reprieve would be temporary; Brigitte Mabandla, her successor, had been asked merely "to step aside for a few hours".

Immediately after his return from a tour of the Gulf on Thursday, Mr Mandela had talks with his first and second deputies, Thabo Mbeki and F.W. de Klerk, leader of the National Party, and Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Home Minister and the Inkatha Freedom Party leader. Mr Mandela then told his wife that she had again been dismissed. Yesterday he issued a statement in which he said: "After due reflection, I have decided ... to terminate Mrs Winnie Mandela's appointment; and to appoint Mrs Brigitte Mabandla to the post." The sacking and the reappointment of Mrs Mabandla will take effect on Tuesday.

To try to head off further litigation claiming that Mrs Mandela's dismissal is unconstitutional, the President's statement added: "I wish to add that the appointment of ministers and deputy ministers, more particularly those from the ranks of my own organisation [the African National Congress], constitutes a political decision ... The overriding consideration, as in this instance, is what the President believes is necessary in pursuit of good government and the interests of the country.

"There is no requirement for reasons behind such decisions to be made public. Such a precedent would impact negatively on the ability of the executive to govern well and wisely."



Mrs Mandela: under police investigation

Mr Mandela went on to thank his wife "for the service she has rendered to the Government", adding that he sincerely hoped that "this action will help her to reflect and improve on her conduct in positions of leadership".

Mrs Mandela has been a thorn in her husband's side, and an embarrassment to his Government since she was appointed after last year's general election. She is presently under police investigation for allegedly taking payments from a construction company in return for using her influence to procure contracts for the company.

She has publicly attacked the Government of which she was a member for failing to satisfy the aspirations of the black poor and instead concentrating on pacifying the fears of affluent whites.

She was accused by dissatisfied members of the executive of the ANC Women's League, which she chairs, of dictatorial attitudes, and finally upset her husband by undertaking a jaunt around West Africa after he had specifically forbidden her to go, preferring that she should face the Women's League dissidents at a mediation meeting.

None of these matters was explained in the letter sacking her on March 27, and the President's office had failed to reach Chief Buthelezi to consult him over the sacking as required by the constitution. When Mrs Mandela sued for reinstatement, an affidavit from the chief in her support was attached to the writ.

The President decided that it was easier to reinstate her and then dismiss her properly, than to face a drawn-out legal battle, even one he was likely to win. It now remains to be seen how quiet his wife will be, and how far she will accept her renewed dismissal. Yesterday the ANC quickly issued a statement making clear that it endorsed Mrs Mandela's dismissal.



A touch more modesty is added to naked statues of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in Canberra as Carey McQuillan, an Australian Vietnam veteran and monarchist, drapes a sheet with the image of Blinky Bill, a koala bear children's character, over the couple yesterday. The nude ferro-concrete torsos, which so upset royalists, had already been covered by shirts. Police have found no trace of the Queen's head, severed from the statues at Lake Burley Griffin on Thursday. Monarchists, who want the figures removed, accuse Greg Taylor, the sculptor, of pursuing the republican agenda of Paul Keating, the Prime Minister, to remove the Queen as head of state by 2001. He said yesterday that while the defacing of his work was a tragedy, the debate that had been generated was healthy. *(Reuter)*

Bear cover for Queen

Oil plan rejected by Iraq

New York: Iraq appeared to reject a United Nations scheme yesterday that would allow it to sell some oil again on world markets for the first time since the Gulf War (James Bone writes).

The UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution — sponsored by Britain and the United States — allowing Iraq to export up to $2 billion (£1.28 billion) worth of oil over an initial six-month period to raise money for food and other humanitarian supplies. Iraq later blamed the US for the failure to draft a "workable" resolution on the "oil-for-food" scheme.

Pope laughs at phone hoax

Montreal: Pierre Brassard, a Quebec comedian, said that he talked to the Pope at the Vatican by telephone pretending to be Jean Chrétien, the Canadian Prime Minister. Mimicking M Chrétien, he told the pontiff a CBC broadcast on a Montreal radio station that he was mending the constitution to assure Canadians the right to life. When Brassard admitted he was not the Prime Minister, he said that the Pope chuckled and blessed Canada. "I swear it's true," he said. *(Reuter)*

MP sentenced over Tapie lie

Béthune: Jacques Mellick, the Mayor of Béthune in northern France and a Socialist MP, has been given a six-month suspended jail sentence and barred from office for two years for ordering a aide to lie to shield Bernard Tapie, the former owner of the Marseilles football team, from match-fixing charges. Mellick, a former minister, is to appeal. A verdict in M Tapie's trial is expected next month. *(Reuter)*

Ruling backs woman cadet

New York: Shannon Faulkner, 20, the cadet who has battled for two years for admittance to The Citadel, South Carolina's all-male military training school, may get her wish next August (Bn Macintyre writes). A federal court has ruled that her rights were violated when the college rejected her application.

Poacher hops it

Vladivostok: A Chinese poacher wounded and captured in a shootout with Russian border guards while trying to catch frogs — a Chinese delicacy — has escaped, Interfax reported. *(AP)*

Can't find the staff? It's all in the mind

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

BUSINESS recruiters unwilling to rely on the traditional rigmarole of interviews, references and CVs now have a new and bizarre method for screening prospective employees: "corporate psychics" who telepathically interview job candidates.

Advisor Associates, a duo of psychics from New Jersey, say they have been hired by some 90 US firms, including several on the *Fortune* 500 list of top corporations, to interpret the psychic "vibes" of job applicants and advise on whether they should be hired.

The soothsayers, Phyllis Schwartz and Hy Kaplan, will not identify who their corporate clients are but they insist that psychic recruitment techniques are catching on rapidly among executives in the United States.

The psychics never actually see the job applicants, but rely merely on details such as name, age, gender and address to gather up the transcendental messages and determine "if a person is suited for a job both intellectually and emotionally.

"We will sit down and put ourselves in a nice relaxed mood. We just close our eyes and take some nice deep breaths and then ... articulate what comes into our heads," Mr Kaplan says. The cost of an evaluation ranges from $1,500 up to $10,000.

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James Pringle returns to the Killing Fields and wonders if a million lives could have been saved

Terror of Pol Pot blights Cambodia twenty years on



Sok Ngoun, a Cambodian interpreter, is flanked by General Chantaraingsey, left, and James Pringle at the height of the Cambodian War

IN *Dead Soldiers*, James Fenton's poem, about the Cambodian war, the British poet wrote of a lunch he once had on the battlefield with General Prince Norodom Chantaraingsey.

Fenton recalled there was brandy, soda and ice — the dead soldiers of the title are empty brandy bottles — frogs' legs and a dazzling white tablecloth. "They lived well, *the mad Norodoms, they had style*," wrote Fenton, now professor of poetry at Oxford.

The poet, who has described just how searing an experience Cambodia was for him, thought that when Phnom Penh fell to the murderous Khmer Rouge, as it did 20 years ago on Monday, Chantaraingsey would be safe in "a limestone faubourg, on the promenade at Nice". In the final lines of the poem, he says with apparent surprise that he had heard Chantaraingsey was "fighting somewhere in the Cardamoms or the Elephant Mountains".

As a reporter in Cambodia in the early Seventies, I also lunched with Prince Chantaraingsey during the battle of Pich Nil pass, as smart retainers flicked table napkins to chase off the flies, and poured red wine. At that stage of the war, journalists were often treated to al fresco feasts.

At the time, Sok Ngoun, *my Cambodian interpreter, translated the comments of the prince*, who wrote romantic novels when he was not fighting or running a casino in Phnom Penh, as bullets flew overhead. Chantaraingsey had fallen out with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, his relative and now Cambodia's King, but then recently deposed in an American-backed coup. The quarrel was said to be over a princess they both loved (Chantaraingsey won the lady's hand). I also knew he had fought in the non-communist resistance against the French colonialists. But I thought he had become effete.

I now know what happened to Chantaraingsey, and I could not have been more wrong. *Showing supreme courage in the face of the most deadly of foes, the prince went on fighting in Cambodia's southern mountains for a year after Pol Pot had captured Phnom Penh and evacuated its population en masse as he established his genocidal Maoist state.* Chantaraingsey was eventually shot and killed in an ambush.

Nowadays, whenever I cross the Pich Nil pass on Highway Four, where a Briton, a Frenchman and an Australian were murdered by the Khmer Rouge last year, I think of Chantaraingsey and how he did not flee with the loot and wonder whether, if there had been more like him at the time, the Khmer Rouge might have been stopped and a million lives saved in the Killing Fields from the genocidal fury of Pol Pot.

This might also have spared the life of Sok Ngoun because, *as his wife told me years later, the Khmer Rouge came to seek him out on the commune* where he performed forced labour like the rest of the Cambodian population and bludgeoned him to death because he had worked as an interpreter for myself and other Reuter correspondents. Speaking a foreign language marked you for death in the lethal lunacy of Cambodia's Year Zero.



Sean Flynn: vanished after being captured

Like many foreign reporters, I first saw Cambodia from a helicopter during the American invasion in April, 1970. Nixon and Henry Kissinger had since 1969 been engaged in Operation Menu, the secret bombing of neutral Cambodia, a manoeuvre that entailed falsification of military records to conceal it from congressional scrutiny. Most of the bombing was done by B52s. Their bombs left rows of craters for half a mile, and killed by concussion almost everything within a mile.

The Khmer Rouge were *then junior partners to the Viet Cong in fighting the Americans* and South Vietnamese in Cambodia, but some believe that being on the receiving end of B52 raids contributed to the brutalisation of the forces led by Pol Pot, who is still alive in western Cambodia.

The Khmer Rouge apart, there was a terrible innocence in Cambodia that made Cambodians unaware that the use of their territory by the communist forces in Vietnam and the ferocious Nixon-Kissinger response to it had sealed their fate. I was Reuter bureau chief in Saigon, and decided with the agreement of the other four correspondents on the team that we would take a month at a time covering Cambodia as a welcome break from the strain of Vietnam, where people were understandably war-weary and cynical. But we soon found that, charming though Cambodians seemed, Cambodia was more dangerous than Vietnam.

I recall once being stopped by a Cambodian major who told me he had lost half his battalion and asked if I knew where it was. I was able to tell him their commandeered rickety city buses were parked at the side of the road some miles back, as the wives cooked their husbands' lunches. In Cambodia, wives — and sometimes children — routinely accompanied their men to the frontline to boil their rice in the trenches. Unlike Vietnam, Cambodian units did not secure the road behind them; as a result, there might be a Cambodian battalion ahead but the road from Phnom Penh remained menacing and dangerous; an absence of people in the rice paddies alerted correspondents to possible danger. And the old rule always applied: no travel on the roads after 4pm. Then there was the suspicion that behind the Cambodian smile there lurked something more sinister. We all saw the bodies of Vietnamese civilians massacred by the pro-Western Cambodian army floating in the Mekong. And there was another Cambodian general who, unlike Chantaraingsey, did end up living in a Paris faubourg. Once, at Saang, a small town seized by the Viet Cong, I watched him line up 80 weeping Vietnamese Catholics of both sexes. Then he ordered them at gunpoint towards the Viet Cong lines.

> Behind the Cambodian smile there lurked something more sinister. I saw bodies of Vietnamese civilians massacred

"If the Viet Cong fire on their countrymen we will see their positions," said this brilliant strategist. The Viet Cong did open fire, mostly aiming high, but three Vietnamese civilians were killed and the town was not taken. To their credit, the Viet Cong often seemed intentionally to inflict no more damage than really necessary on their inexperienced Cambodian foe.

I was on Highway 1 to Vietnam the day two American photographers, Sean Flynn, the brave professional son of Errol Flynn, and Dana Stone were stopped at a Khmer Rouge checkpoint and disappeared for good. We all prayed if we were captured it would be by the Viet Cong, not the Khmer Rouge, whose reputation was already becoming known. Kate Webb, a New Zealander who worked for United Press International news agency, was captured by the Viet Cong. Her abductors were asked by a Khmer Rouge patrol to hand her over — to certain death — but they refused. One day correspondents were shown a box of bones and told: "That is all that is left of Kate Webb." But a few months later she walked out of the forest, and as Agence France-Presse bureau chief in Seoul has been visiting Cambodia as the 20th anniversary of the Pol Pot nightmare approaches.

Ten years ago, as part of the United Nations-brokered peace process which led to successful elections, Cambodians in border refugee camps in Thailand were to be sent home, but were afraid to go. Sylvana Foa, who was a correspondent but is now spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, started an impromptu Cambodian dance and soon the Cambodians were laughing and dancing too. Reminded of the homeland which they had not seen for 14 years, they boarded the buses and headed across the border.

Hong Kong sailors to be released in Chinese climbdown

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

IN A rare example of a Chinese backdown under British pressure, mainland authorities announced yesterday that, as a sign of goodwill, they would free two Hong Kong sailors detained last month.

The move defuses a clash in which British and Chinese diplomats had confronted each other at the highest level, and Chris Patten, the Governor, and the Commander of British forces gave warnings that the Royal Navy would be summoned to prevent incursions into the colony's waters.

The abduction, on March 18, involved a Chinese naval vessel that stopped a Hong Kong-registered tug pulling a lighter containing 47 cars, very likely stolen and being smuggled into China.

The Chinese vessel escorted the Hong Kong boats into Chinese waters, to avoid bad weather on the way to the mainland. It was challenged by Hong Kong marine police, who say they were threatened with machineguns and they permitted the Chinese and their captives to leave.

The intrusion was kept secret for a week until it was disclosed in the press, and there was public outrage. Alastair Goodlad, a Minister of State, summoned Ma Yuzhen, the Chinese Ambassador, to the Foreign Office, and Sir Len Appleyard, the British Ambassador in Peking, complained to the Foreign Ministry.

China apologised for the intrusion but insisted that because the men were originally arrested in its waters they would be tried. The authorities in the southern port of Zhuhai said that the two men, Lai Lin, 34, and Kong Longhoi, 31, had admitted being paid to smuggle cars into China. If convicted they could have been been shot.

Yesterday's Chinese announcement stated that the captives had shown "a good attitude" and that they were being freed as a gesture of goodwill.

Next week in New York, at a United Nations meeting on nuclear proliferation, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, will discuss Hong Kong with Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister. Little had been expected of this meeting, but the freeing of the sailors may be a sign that Peking is seeking a slightly warmer atmosphere.

US turns away its Vietnam war spies

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

VIETNAMESE commandos who say they worked undercover at great risk for Washington in North Vietnam have been denied refugee status in the US.

The men claim to have been members of a covert programme called OPLAN 34-A, run by the CIA and Pentagon to spy on and disrupt North Vietnamese military operations. Captured and sent to labour camps for decades, they now want to leave Vietnam, where they are seen as traitors, and settle in America.

However, the US Immigration Service has rejected their applications, despite backing from David Lambertson, the American ambassador in Thailand. America earlier accepted 25,000 Vietnamese political detainees after they were released from communist prisons and camps.

Immigration officials would not say why the men were refused, but the lost commandos, originally more than 500 strong, have long been suspected of being double agents, and some were killed by the Americans.

Spectacular Northern Lights linked to suicidal depression

BY GILES WHITTELL

ALASKA'S tragically high suicide rate may be related to cosmic storms and the Northern Lights (aurora borealis), according to an expert in the study of brainwaves.

Depression in the Far North has in general been attributed to the deep gloom of its long, dark winters. But Dr Anita Bush, who specialises in electro-encephalography, has complicated matters by discovering a link between solar flares and brainwave activity in two sets of Alaskans she has studied for the past five years.

The tiny electrical impulses were concentrated in an area of the brain known also to trigger seasonal affective depression (Sad), the condition hitherto blamed for dozens of suicides each year in the remote Alaskan hinterland. Suicide levels among the state's 15 to 24-year-olds have risen sharply in recent years, to six times the national average. Dr Bush says in the *Journal of Electro and Magneto-Biology*.



The aurora borealis as seen over Fairbanks, Alaska

She has not yet demonstrated a link between heightened brainwaves and suicidal tendencies, but she thinks existing data on supposed Sad cases may in fact include cases of suicide induced by geomagnetism. For now she has suggested that special dark glasses, worn against solar flares and the Northern Lights, might boost morale among the suicidal.

Some of her colleagues are sceptical. Professor Tom Hallinan, one of a team studying the aurora, recently insisted that the most serious health risk in watching the Alaskan night sky was a cricked neck.

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EU deadlocked as Lisbon demands extra fish quotas

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN UNION ambassadors yesterday failed to resolve the fishing dispute with Canada after emergency talks broke down over surprise demands by Portugal for an increase in its fishing quotas in the northwest Atlantic. EU officials were still hoping that a further meeting late last night might break the deadlock.

There was widespread frustration among EU officials, who had held out high hopes that a deal was imminent. A Portuguese diplomat said after the talks: "We are against the deal. We must still solve the quota problem."

In theory, Portugal could have been outvoted, but the EU tends to avoid the use of the qualified majority procedure in such situations.

Hopes for an end to the conflict rose on Thursday after Spanish diplomats indicated that they could accept the compromise proposal, even though the agreed fishing quotas were lower than what Madrid had originally demanded. Spain and Portugal are the only EU countries with fishing interests in the disputed area off the coast of Newfoundland.

Portugal's latest demands hamper efforts by EU ambassadors to put an end to the fishing dispute over Greenland halibut stocks in the northwest Atlantic, which has entered its seventh week. Negotiators from the European Commission earlier this week reached a delicately balanced agreement with the Canadians, under which fishing efforts would have been reduced and monitoring would have been stepped up.

The conflict was triggered early last month, when Canadian patrols boats arrested the *Estai*, a Spanish trawler accused of illegal fishing in international waters off the coast of Newfoundland.

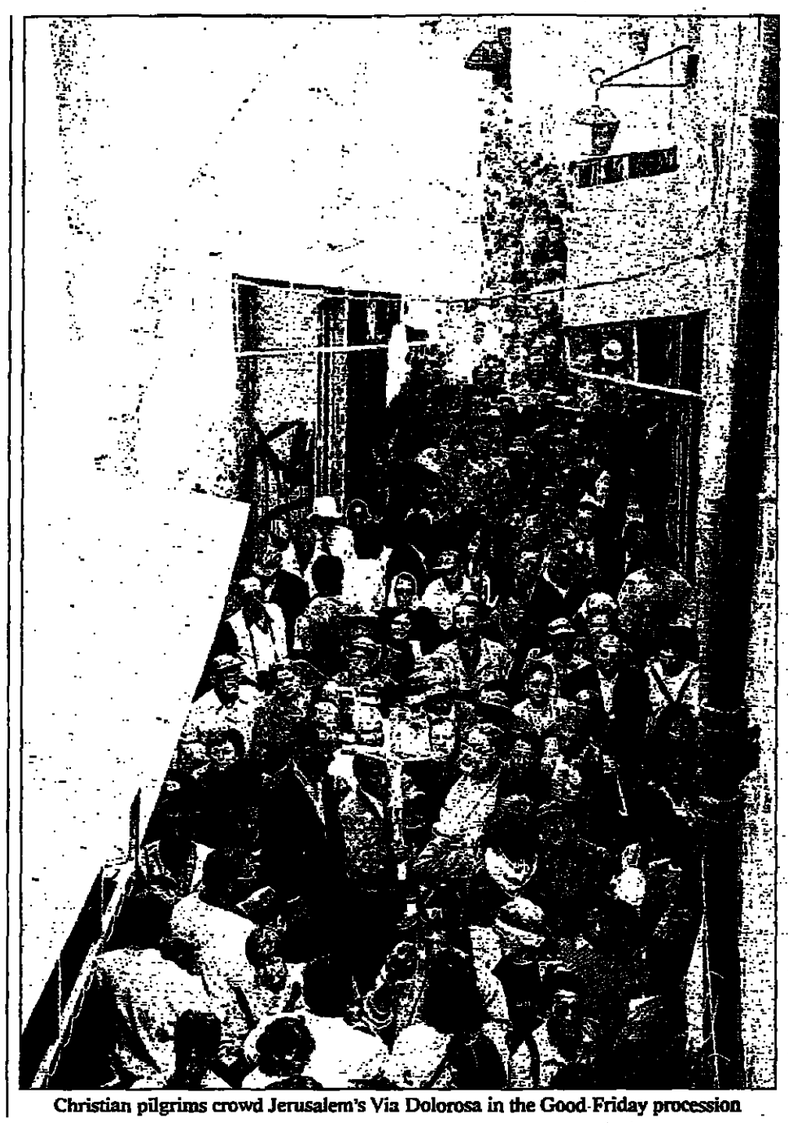
Under the compromise deal, the Union would have been able to increase its agreed baseline quota for Greenland halibut of 10,000 tonnes by an extra 1,800 tonnes, through purchases of quotas from non-EU countries, including Russia and the Baltic states.

The original EU share was to be divided on the basis of 8,000 tonnes for Spain and 2,000 tonnes for Portugal. The Portuguese objected because the extra quota of 1,800 tonnes would have gone almost entirely to Spain. Even though the effective difference is only a few hundred tonnes of fish, negotiators are anxious not to allow the agreement to unravel. It was not clear whether the EU would be able to increase Portugal's allowance through further quota purchases.

The agreement with the Canadians also covers enforcement of the agreed rules. Fishing vessels in the region will in future carry two international monitors to check the use of proper mesh sizes and to ensure that the agreed quotas are adhered to. The negotiators also agree on the use of satellites to monitor fishing activity.

In return for Spanish and Portuguese restraint on fishing in northwest Atlantic, Canada has undertaken not to enforce domestic legislation, which gives its authorities the right to patrol the high seas outside the internationally recognised 200-mile zone.

In its negotiations, the EU is also believed to have prevailed in its demand that the bilateral deal with Canada would only take effect once it is accepted by the majority of the members in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (Nafo). In February, Nafo decided to cut the total allowable catch of Greenland halibut from a previous 44,000 tonnes to 27,000 tonnes. Canada forced a vote at Nafo to cut the EU's previous quota of 37,000 tonnes to 3,400 tonnes.



Christian pilgrims crowd Jerusalem's Via Dolorosa in the Good Friday procession

Rabin says Gaza settlers may be forcibly evicted

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK RABIN, Israel's Prime Minister, said for the first time yesterday that he did not rule out the forcible uprooting of some of the 144 Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as part of any final peace agreement with the Palestinians.

Mr Rabin said a number of settlements built under right-wing Likud governments in crowded Arab areas of the West Bank between 1977 and 1992 were a "political and security mistake".

Israeli officials estimate that at least 30 of the more isolated settlements would have to be removed in any final peace deal and others regrouped in blocks that could be adequately defended once Israeli soldiers in the West Bank have been withdrawn from Palestinian population centres.

The Prime Minister's remarks, which will outrage Israeli hardliners, were made in a series of interviews to mark the start of a tense Passover holiday. Intelligence predictions of more Islamic suicide attacks have put Israel in a state of siege for the week-long festivities, with 2.2 million Palestinians barred from entering the Jewish state from the West Bank and Gaza and all Israeli missions abroad placed on high alert.

An indefinite curfew was imposed on the 100,000 Palestinians in the contested West Bank city of Hebron where about 450 Jews live in heavily fortified buildings.

Israel radio said that thousands of extra troops and police had been drafted in to guard parks, beaches and synagogues. Yesterday, two Arabs were wounded, one seriously, when they fled in a car from a roadblock near one entrance to the West Bank.

Mr Rabin said: "I still think that during the period of the interim accord, it is not necessary to come to uprooting settlements ... I do not rule out the possibility of uprooting settlements when we reach the permanent agreements." These are due to be negotiated not later than May, 1996.

Many right-wing politicians and army commanders have voiced fears that any mass operation to uproot settlements could spark a civil war between left and right-wing Jews. The dovish Meretz party, an important member of Mr Rabin's Labour-led coalition, this week called for the dismantling of a number of the most isolated settlements which it said put in danger the lives of thousands of Israeli soldiers who defend them around the clock.

☐ **Attacker caught**: A man shot at guards at Israel's industrial complex on the Dead Sea yesterday. The guards, who were not believed to have been hit, captured the attacker after they fired back and wounded him. *(Reuter)*

Skeletons rattle González in death squad scandal

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

AFTER more than 12 years in power, any government tends to gather its share of scandals, but the latest revelations about alleged Spanish death squads pose a difficult dilemma for Felipe González, the Socialist Prime Minister.

He must decide whether to instruct his so-far untainted new Minister of Justice and the Interior, Juan Alberto Belloch, to find out who buried the skeletons of two Eta terrorists who disappeared 12 years ago, and thereby risk prosecuting his own Government. Alternatively, the order could go out to find the "fall guys", a task at which Señor González's administration is becoming increasingly experienced.

Forced to act because of a series of revelations by two former police officers, the judiciary has sent half a dozen former top officials at the Interior Ministry to prison. They face charges of financing and organising death squads



González: dilemma over two bodies

that killed 26 suspected Eta members in southwestern France between 1983 and 1987. But a succession of ministers have so far escaped a similar fate, claiming they had no idea what their immediate subordinates were doing, even though secret government funds financed the dirty tricks operations.

This week, two skeletons originally found buried in a quicklime grave near Alicante in 1985 were identified by Institute of Toxicology tests as José Ignacio Zabala, 22, and José Antonio Lasa, 20. They had been shot in the neck and may have been tortured. The two men were kidnapped from France in October 1983.

Three months later, a caller told Radio Alicante that the two young men had been killed by Gal, the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Group — the death squad organised by Spanish police and Civil Guards.

El País, Spain's leading newspaper, reported yesterday that Margarita Robles, responsible to Señor Belloch for the Interior Ministry, was delegated to investigate the affair and that various Civil Guards are to be questioned. Their commander-in-chief for 13 years has been Colonel Enrique Rodríguez Galindo, 55, the most decorated officer in the Civil Guard, who Basques allege was involved with the GAL death squads and drug dealing.

Cyber buffs log on for touch of divine inspiration

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

IN WHAT may be the electronic church of the future, many computer users in America will be observing this weekend's religious holidays on the information superhighway, with an Easter prayer meeting in cyberspace, an on-line Jewish seder (Passover celebration), or even a "virtual" Easter egg hunt. Father Paul Keenan, of the Archdiocese of New York, will hold an Easter morning interfaith service on the computer network tomorrow, following a Good Friday electronic meditation on the Crucifixion.

For Jewish computer buffs, a rabbi and cantor are holding the world's first "cyberseder", an on-line celebration of the flight from Egypt, followed by a 40-minute question-and-answer session. The plan to go high-tech with Judaism's holiday of liberation has met criticism in some quarters. "A significant part of this holiday is community and family, and that cannot be replaced on-line," said Laurence Silberstein, of Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

For those more concerned with the secular aspects of the holiday, Apple Computer's world service has set up an Easter egg hunt in which subscribers search for "virtual" eggs concealed on the Internet and win prizes. The on-line service Prodigy has arranged for computer users to conduct an electronic chat with the Easter Bunny.

Some religious observers fear that Easter and Passover have been hijacked, but others argue that new technology is the best way to attract new worshippers.



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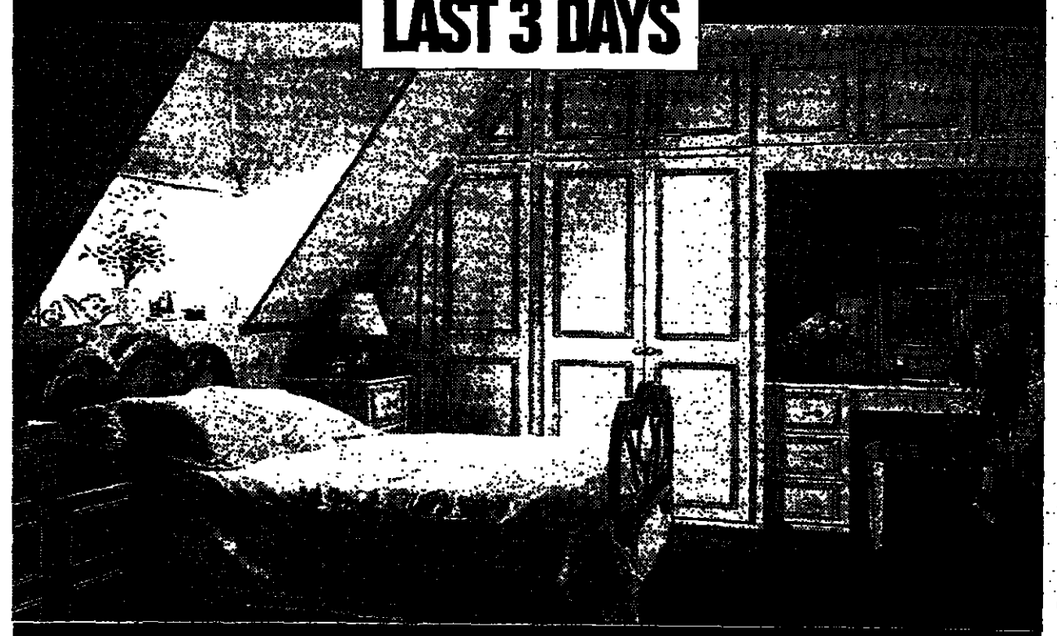
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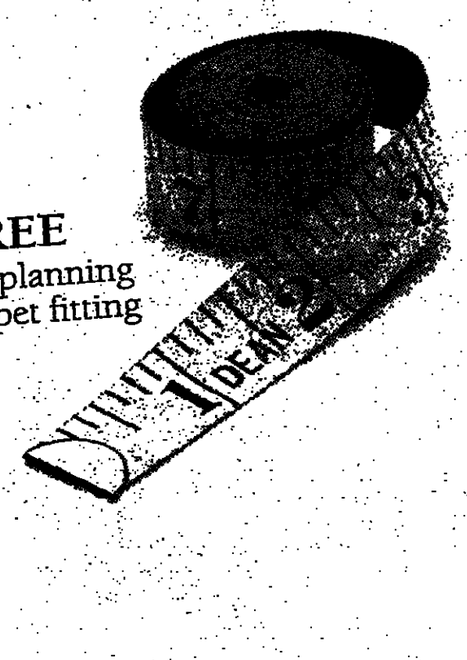
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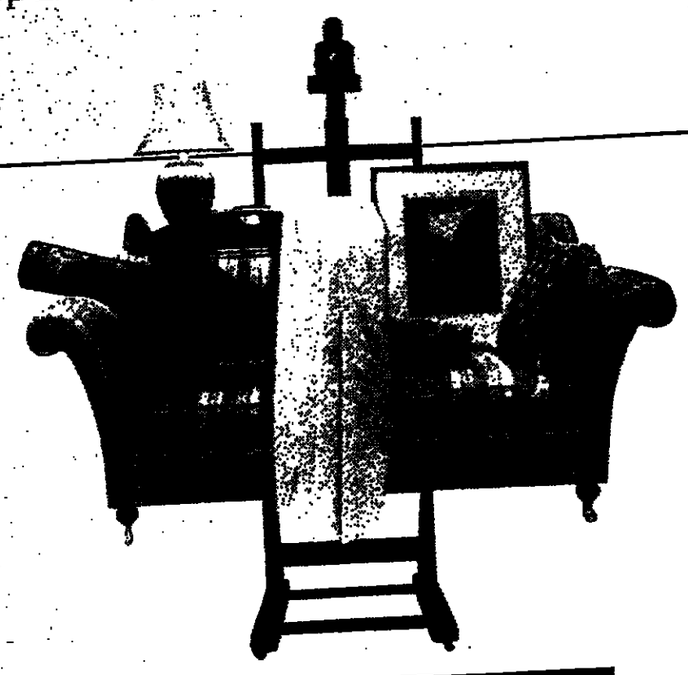
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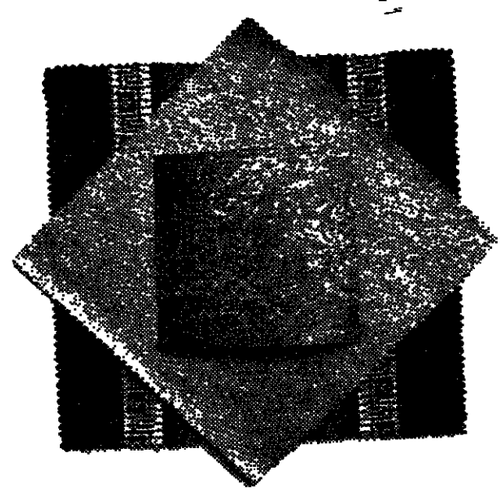


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An offer over coffee from a spy

Nicholas Bethell meets Colonel Kobaladze in his new offices

"OUR SPIES want to help you," said the secret agent. "The world is dangerous and we need each other. Russian intelligence wants to co-operate with its Western counterparts including your MI6."

I was drinking coffee with Colonel Yuri Kobaladze, a likeable enough Russian spy, who, according to Oleg Gordievsky's book, spent much of the 1970s in London for the KGB, pretending to be a journalist and trying to *recruit left-wing MPs and* academics. I sipped and asked myself, is this man a friend? The Cold War is over. And yet, the Russian army is behaving abominably in Chechenia.

The "Russian Intelligence Service" (SVR), as it is *now* called, has a "public affairs section" in the centre of Moscow, in a modest house standing out from the others only because it is in good repair and newly painted.

I had *rung the unmarked* bell and the door was opened immediately. Two policemen watched the entrance hall, but there was no pass system and, accompanied by Colonel Kobaladze, I walked around *the rooms of this "open"* part of Russia's most secret service. Eventually we sat in a huge reception area, with new, expensive furniture.

Colonel Kobaladze then tried to *explain to me that* Russian secret agents, once an elite corps of men feared throughout the world, are today "a good thing". He said: "We can distinguish three main problems that are of *interest to us all. The first is* the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Americans say that there are today seven countries on the threshold of nuclear capability. Most of these are on our borders.

"Second, *we are against* terrorism and willing to cooperate with any intelligence service in the world to fight it. The CIA is our counterpart in this, your MI6, too." President Yeltsin's Government has recently allowed the American secret services to open an office in Moscow, working *with Russian* "colleagues". Colonel Kobaladze continues: "Our other joint enemies are drug trafficking and organised crime. Drugs are a serious threat and you know about our crime problem."

*However, he told me frank*ly that his people will continue spying operations throughout the world, including Britain. "As far as industrial espionage is concerned, the United States is spying in France, Israel is spying in the United States, it is happening everywhere. We are no better and no worse *than anyone else.*"

Espionage, he believes, helps world stability by enabling governments to find out what stratagems other governments are planning. Russia's allies have disappeared. Many want to join Nato. "This is of concern to us, even though we are no longer in conflict with the West."

He quoted a statement by Robert Gates, former Director of the CIA, that America is *increasing its human intelli*gence capability in the former Soviet Union, because of worries about *instability in the* region. "And by human intelligence Mr Gates means recruiting agents."

"You must understand how we feel," the colonel says. "We do not have to be paranoid about it. We do not think that this new Nato is about to invade us. But we have to look at this development with concern. Military intelligence will therefore continue."

Unlike the Americans, he says, the new Russian service has scaled down its spying activities by some 40 per cent and such devices as employing journalists as spies are being phased out. "At the moment, there are none of our people working as journalists in London," he told me.

(This statement conflicts with information received by the Home Secretary that Alexander Malikov, London correspondent of Moscow television, is an SVR agent. Mr Malikov recently appealed to *the immigration advisory pan*el and Mr Howard will have to decide whether or not he can stay in this country).

British intelligence sources point out that British military attachés in embassies abroad *come from a whole range of* regiments and units. Russian attachés on the other hand are all products of the "GRU organisation", all trained intelligence agents. These sources *also insist that* in recent months the "new KGB" has reinstated its personnel and budget to a level similar to that before the August, 1991, coup d'état.

> 'The new KGB cannot rid itself of the baggage of the past'

Colonel Kobaladze *is anxious to distance* himself from the old KGB's image. "We enforced the law against dissidents," he says. "I agree that there were bad laws, but we did not make them. Now our service works *under strict legal control.*" He admits that in Stalin's day the KGB used terrorist methods and carried out murders. "It was the requirement of society," he says.

He rejects the complaint made by Alexander Solzhenitsyn that the KGB tried to kill him. He denies the writer Vladimir Voinovich's suggestion that the KGB poisoned him. He rejects the allegations of dissidents that they were irradiated by the KGB to induce cancer. "Some of these dissidents of yours are quite *paranoid,*" *he told me.*

HE REJECTS the charge that the KGB made and provided the weapon that killed Bulgarian writer Georgi Markov on Waterloo Bridge in 1978. "This is what our ex-general Oleg Kalugin claims. We made a thorough check on our archives and we *found nothing* to confirm his charges."

Try as it does, the new KGB cannot rid itself of the baggage of the past, its ill treatment of Russian dissidents, the murder of Georgi Markov, its many millions of murders in Stalin's time. Not one KGB person has been brought to trial. The West would be crazy to reject Colonel Kobaladze's offer out of hand. Even so, if ever I sit down to sup with his colleagues again, especially as the Chechenia war continues, I will make sure that I have *with me my longest spoon.*

Charles Bremner says that political electioneering is one thing but governing France is another

The comfort of rule by administrator

As he campaigns around France, Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist favourite for the presidency, is guaranteed a laugh when he tells a joke about a farmer with a sick cow. A man from the ministry offers a stock of daft remedies. When the farmer reports the animal's demise, the expert replies: "What a pity, I still had a lot of good solutions *for you.*"

The parable hammers a central theme of M Chirac's campaign: the *notion that* France's ills are in part the fault of an arrogant caste of technocrats which commands all sectors of national life. By all accounts, the Gaullist leader has struck a nerve by portraying himself as the scourge of what he calls the technostructure, the old boys of *Les Grandes Ecoles*, who, he says, have monopolised the levers of power, *blurring the line between politics and* administration. He has thus drawn the populist fire of the second-tier candidates. Jean-Marie Le Pen of the ultra-right National Front, Philippe de Villiers, the anti-Maastricht traditionalist and Robert Hue, the Communist. These *all inveigh in similar* terms against a remote ruling class.

M Chirac's new pose is winning him votes, notably against Edouard Balladur, his Gaullist adversary, who comes over as the very model of the distant, haughty administrator. However, the campaign for the two-round election which starts next weekend has offered plenty of evidence that "*les élites*" need have no fear of the guillotine. France may grumble about its *hauts fonctionnaires* but it really admires them and looks to them for comfort in the face of a cruel world.

Like most top-ranking politicians, M Chirac himself hails from one of the *grands corps d'état* and his career *is testimony to the power of the* system. Mayor of Paris for the past 17 years, he is an old boy of the Ecole Nationale de l'Administration (ENA), the nursery of the high civil service which turns out just 100 graduates a year. Alain Minc, chief guru to M *Balladur, complained this week that* "if anyone had promoted the practices of regal and state power, it is Jacques Chirac."

M Chirac's two top lieutenants, Philippe Séguin and Alain Juppé are also supreme examples of the intellectually supercharged administrator. The much-admired M Juppé, who is likely to become Prime Minister under a Chirac presidency, is certain to head a government of fellow *enarques*, as ENA graduates are known. M Chirac's only odd man out is Alain Madelin, current business minister, whose free-trade creed is regarded as a refreshing eccentricity. Beyond his rhetoric, M Chirac is proposing no measures to weaken the *power of the elite*, such as a reform of the ENA and the other schools whose graduates command the top jobs in business, education and arts administration at the expense of those from humble universities.

The candidate next favoured by the *polls, Lionel Jospin, the Socialist, is* also an *enarque*, unlike his mentor President Mitterrand, a lawyer and last of the old-school politicians. Apart from M Chirac, M Jospin and M Balladur, two other candidates, M de Villiers and Jacques Cheminade — a distant outsider — are also ENA men. In brief, modern France has never had an election so dominated on left and right by the very élite that is deemed so unpopular.

Here lies a paradox. As France suffers the agony of chronically high unemployment and fears for its future in an American-dominated world, it is looking more than ever for reassurance to the technocrat class. While politicians are deemed to be unscrupulous types on a level with journalists and insider traders, the *haut fonctionnaire* enjoys the highest of status.

A poll this week for *Le Monde* showed that a strong majority is looking for comfort to the State. While 64 per cent want the President to be "a real boss who reimposes order and commands", 67 per cent said they wanted *l'état*, meaning the apparatus of centralised power, "to play a bigger role in the economic life of the country". This confirmed that France feels threatened by the emergence of an all-out market economy, seen as alien and "*Anglo-Saxon*". Another newspaper asked the public whether there should be a ban on ministerial *cabinets*, the ENA-dominated teams which surround the political bosses. The answer was a *big* no.

Late in the campaign, commentators are noting that rebellion against *l'administration* of technocrats is something of a mirage. For all the resentment towards the privileges of the ruling caste, there is a consensus that the system of power, devised under Louis XIV and intensified by the Jacobins and the modern Republic, serves France pretty well, ensuring equality, prosperity and — among other things — a fine welfare system. *Such Gallic glories as the* TGV high-speed train system could never exist without it.

"The betrayal by the elites is a myth," writes Alain Duhamel, an influential commentator, in a new book, *La Politique Imaginaire*, which sets out to dismantle prevailing political fallacies. The high mandarin class, he argues, is not a self-protecting Mafia nor an aristocracy but a "meritocratic oligarchy" which is more democratic than the establishments of other nations. You only had to look at the waiting lists for British hospitals or the poor in the United States, he says, to understand how well the elite run France.

A very anti-urban conspiracy

Simon Schama is the Pied Piper of the weekend cottage, but does the escape to the country by the middle-aged middle class spell death for the city?



Winter Landscape by Caspar David Friedrich: but a New Jerusalem can be found only in the cities

Simon Jenkins

They dominate Parliament. They pervade the universities. They infest the media. *The anti-urban conspirators* are ubiquitous and powerful. They give no quarter in their contempt for city-dwellers. For the past month, they have been drooling over Simon Schama's *Landscape and Memory*. Schama is their guru. He intellectualises the trek of the fortysomethings out of London, down the M4 to pseudo-Arcadian retreats. He is the Pied Piper of the weekend cottage.

Schama's thesis is that behind all our cultural assumptions lies some primeval id, some yearning after the elements of wood, water and rock. This has to do with our once *emerging from ooze. Childish fanta*sies, adult memories, conscious and unconscious thoughts and actions, all return to the forests, the rivers and mountains of Northern Europe. Scratch the surface of a coronation, an opera, a classical temple, even a Greenwich whitebait dinner and you will see Thor and Odin grinning back at you. The Earth is mother to us all.

Those who communed at Woodstock and *Glastonbury are finding* this immensely nostalgic. In the Sixties girls would gaze at a rock or a twig for a week and claim to have "consummated a oneness" with it. They even pretended to marry the things.

Since then they have put away Bob Dylan and James Taylor. Schama offers them new balladeers to discuss *over the garlic bread: an extraordi*nary gallery of Arminius and Raleigh, Poussin and Bernini, Walpole, Ruskin, Caspar David Friedrich, Thoreau and many, many others. *Landscape and Memory* is a Kama Sutra of literary name-dropping. It *shows how to get everybody into the* same sentence with one foot still touching the floor.

The Schama technique is a series of pointilliste impressions. Each dot is an anecdote from his reading material, composed with his latest theme in mind. Thus Bernini's fountains are described at length, "liberating the kinetic qualities of light and water" *from the prison of baroque architec*ture. Victorian politicians go to dine at Greenwich, in thanks for some ancient rite of hydraulics. Cleopatra's *Needle comes to England, stitching* together the ancient waters of the Thames and the Nile. Mountains are always sacred. Rivers are always rivers of life. Freedom and justice are dispensed "under the greenwood tree". We are all close to nature. Get it?

The job is well done. Schama is a dazzling painter and his editors know about good illustration. I thought his work, *The Embarrassment of Riches*, on 17th-century Holland, was a masterpiece. Since then he seems to have won his battle with the historical old guard: that a sweep of storytelling and a dash of sex-and-*psychoanalysis are witness enough* to the past.

His bibliographies have made him the wow of the Hudson River and should do the same for stripped-pine southern England. Did Conrad realise he was pursuing El Dorado? Can a forest be a Christian place? Are you worried that Aby Warburg went the same way as Nietzsche? And what of our old friend Ego — what was he really up to *in Arcadia? This is great stuff, a must* for every Tom Stoppard groupie.

But, but, but. Every one of Schama's vignettes could, in my view, be stood on its head. I happen to hold the opposite thesis: that the defining inspiration of Western culture is artifice not nature. Great art, great literature, great music, great architecture aspire to adorn human *societies and settlements, not* landscape.

The faith and fantasies of Milton and Bunyan, Blake and Pugin were of the Celestial City, not Mother Earth. They sought a New Jerusalem, not a new Mount of Olives. We *may all be descended from Celts in* woad and our politics and religion may be rooted in distant forms. But so what?

For the majority of Westerners the context of their culture is urban. Their experiences, memories, images are of towns and the communities that people them. Houses, pave*ments*, streets, shopfronts, offices, factories, city buildings are their visual furniture. Most people spend virtually all their lives on a manmade surface.

They accept nature as softening its *edges. They invent rus in urbe and* garden cities. But when they see a tree they do not think of elves and boar-hunts. They think how it goes with the building. The architect is the impresario of the modern environment. Nature is one of his acts.

I am sure anybody can find quotes to sustain the theme that *nature is dominant in Western* culture. Anybody can also do the opposite. Schama's Greenwich dinner is best described in Dickens's *Our Mutual Friend*, a masterpiece of the urban imagination. His Conrad wrote *The Secret Agent* as well as *Heart of Darkness*. His Egyptian obelisks were essentially works of temple architecture, not myth, wrenched from their sites to adorn modern cities. In the background of most of Schama's Renaissance scenes is a glistening turreted palace.

The Americans' love of wilderness — from Yosemite to the tedious Thoreau — has always been half-hearted, a guilty glance over their shoulders amid the serious business of building ever grander townscapes. There is no shortage of material to pit against Schama's naturalists. Mark *Girouard's impassioned Cities and* People (1985) is a scholarly antidote. Take Schama's thesis out of hard covers and it crumples to the floor. It has no spine.

But it has dangers. Sometime after the age of 40, we all find that the radical juices start to ebb and the conservative ones start to flow. The middle-aged middle class decides the *city is "lost" and they go off to "re"*-discover the country.

Greying at the temples, Dick Whittington returns up the A1, declaring that modern towns are uninhabitable, modern youths unendurable, people awful. He has always aspired to a country place. His time has come. The city, like the theatre, is not what it was. Roy Porter's new history of London ends on the same depressive note. Schama is the prophet of this escapism.

Such generational despair leaves cities and those who cannot desert them to degenerate. While Schama and his over-age hippies vanish to dance with *nymphs and shepherds in* Arcadia — and "ruin" it in the process — his unfashionable urban settlements suffer a vicious circle. Untended architecture is not like untended nature. The built environment needs collective loving care. It still has people in it, whose icons, images, memories and experiences the Schamanites relegate to some pre-societal past. This de-culturing of cities is both unhistorical and anti-humanist. As they slide into ugliness their populations become angry and alienated.

Making where we live more beautiful is probably the hardest *thing* we have ever tried to do. The most absorbing human quest is still the quest for style. That quest is not retrospective or primitive. The excitement of architecture is that it has to be forward-looking, even *where it finds inspiration in revival.*

To create New Jerusalem is still the be-all and end-all of both culture and politics. It is the great philanthropic endeavour. Perhaps Schama could make amends by writing *Townscape and Memory*, and putting nature back below the salt.

Pecking order

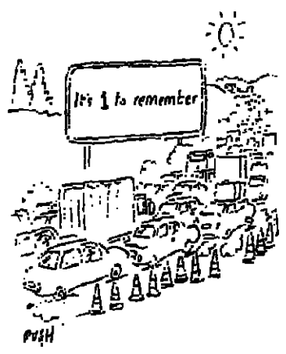
KENNETH Clarke's visit in June to India is ruffling feathers in Delhi. The British High Commission is urgently seeking an ornithologist to entertain the Chancellor, who lists bird-watching as one of his recreations in *Who's Who*.

*Clarke is visiting the sub-conti*nent for a "working holiday" and has let it be known that he wants to *see at least one of its nature* reserves to brandish his binoculars. But the High Commission can find no one knowledgeable enough to accompany him.

The last time Clarke visited India, in January 1993, the High Commissioner produced a junior diplomat who could readily spot *the difference between a heron and* a hornbill. He was deputed to take Clarke around the bird sanctuaries but has since been transferred to Tel Aviv. Remaining staff have been asked to mug up on Indian birds before Clarke arrives, says a source in the commission.

"Kenneth Clarke is mixing business with pleasure. He will be here for two weekends and has not yet finalised his plans. He is a keen ornithologist and he is likely to go bird-watching," says a spokesman. "But I have not seen one textbook on the subject in the British High *Commission in the years I have* been here. And there is a call out for a bird expert to accompany him if *the need should arise.*"

● *Diana Rigg's former husband, Archie Stirling, is selling off the remaining contents of Keir House,* *the family's Stirlingshire seat for 500 years. A collection of nearly 100 miniature walking sticks is puzzling its owner. "They are all extremely short," says Christie's. "Must have belonged to a pint-sized Stirling but we can't quite put our finger on him."*



Bowled over

NEWS of Jeremy Isaacs's planned departure as Director-General of The Royal Opera House at Covent *Garden has cast a shadow on the* forthcoming summer programme. He has been a stalwart in the Covent Garden cricket team. "He's the Ian Botham of Floral Street," explains a member of the chorus. "A demon batsman and a quirky bowler, but his cricket gear left something to be desired, though."

Isaacs helped to take his side to a 66-run victory against the English National Opera last year. But his contribution was more vocal than practical for he scored only three runs.

Diary date

THE DUTCH are looking for 25 teenage girls called Anne to help *commemorate the 50th anniversary* of the death of Anne Frank. The national airline KLM wants to fly them to Amsterdam for a diary-writing competition.



Anne Frank: commemoration

The girls will be expected to be *inspired by Anne, the 15-year-old* Jewish girl who wrote half a century ago about her family's struggle for survival in Amsterdam while hiding from the Nazis. Anne died in Belsen but her diary has become one of the most popular books in *the world.*

"The idea is to get girls with outgoing personalities and an ability to write," says a *spokeswoman* for KLM. "Everyone will be asked to write a diary about their Amsterdam experience and we'll have a competition to see who is best."

Spin-off

TONY BLAIR may be distancing himself from fund-raising Labour "luvvies", but there are no signs that John Major is prepared to do away with fund-raising functions. The Prime Minister has organised a charity dinner at No 10 to cele*brate the 150th anniversary* of Surrey County Cricket Club, of which he is vice-president.

Diners will have to be wealthy. "There is no set price for tickets; donations are suggested instead," says a source. "One person has paid £1,500 for the dinner this month at Downing Street." Little wonder: the money is going not to the Tory party, but to the Oval.



Lichfield and Havers: fitness fanatics, fearful of excess

Sweet dreams

STARTLING news from the world of astronomy. Sir Patrick Moore has eschewed Milky Ways and Mars this Easter: his preferred *sweet is a chocolate-covered nut.* "If I were a chocolate," he says, "I think I'd have to be a Brazil nut."

Sir Patrick will discuss his sweet tooth on Radio 5's *The Grapevine* this weekend, along with Lord Lichfield and the *actor Nigel Ha*vers. Lichfield and Havers are fitness fanatics, fearful of excessive indulgence. "I am really a *pure* chocolate man," says the photographer.

Rich truffles are out: "They're cholesterol grenades," he says. "As a boy I used to go for milk chocolate, but as I get older I tend to go *for the plain ones* — something that is completely unembellished."

P·H·S

SHARPENED CLAUSE

Blair has yet to slay the beast within his party

Because politicians are defined by their enemies as much as their friends, Tony Blair may find that his battles with the unions turn out to be an electoral advantage. The Labour leadership's robust promises yesterday that there would be no "trade-offs" in advance of the vote on Clause Four of the party's constitution suggested a determination not to be swayed from the historic reform which the Opposition leader promised last year. The vote against change by the country's largest union, Unison, was treated as an annoying setback rather than a strategic disaster.

If Mr Blair's gamble pays off, the electorate will be impressed, and rightly so. It will be said that he has championed democracy in the face of the union block vote. The de-coupling of Labour from the unions will be that much easier. Mr Blair's reputation for sturdy party management — evident in the support of his national executive and the Scottish Labour Party for the reform — suggests that he is still likely to defeat traditionalists when the future of Clause Four is decided at a special conference later this month. It would be foolish to bet against a man of Mr Blair's ability who has effectively staked his future on change.

Yet Unison's vote to reject his plans for a modernised Labour Party cannot be dismissed as an aberration. The union, which represents 1.3 million health and local government workers, was widely expected to support Mr Blair's campaign for a new "ideological compass", after its delegates on the national executive abstained in last month's vote on Clause Four. Labour modernisers have long lionised Unison as a supportive force in the movement.

The union's members certainly have every reason to support Mr Blair. For all its overtures to the consumers of public services, Labour remains a party of the State. When Peter Mandelson, the MP for Hartlepool, wrote in *The Times* that "it is right for Labour to demand more Government", a clear signal was sent to those working in the public sector that the party would still champion their interests. For the Transport and General Workers Union to set itself against change is one thing. For Unison to resist Mr Blair's reform is quite another. It suggests that the resistance to modernisation in the union movement has deeper roots than the Labour leadership suspected. It suggests that the future of the party is far from a foregone conclusion.

Mr Blair must not ignore these rumblings. The campaign within the unions movement to preserve Labour's commitment to nationalisation is symbolic of much else. The TUC is campaigning for a specified national minimum wage and is holding a special conference in July to pursue this goal. The Labour leadership would prefer not to set a figure at all until it has secured office. Doubtless it would also prefer silence on its shift to the Right in education policy. That did not stop John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, from savaging Labour's plans to close bad schools this week. The leadership, he argued, was concentrating too much on "sticks" rather than "carrots". Most voters would agree with Mr Blair that more sticks are precisely what is needed in the nation's schools. Yet they will not be impressed by this instance of disunity within Labour ranks.

All things are relative: Labour's difficulties still compare favourably with the endemic factionalism within the Tory party. But the warning shots of the last few days demonstrate that Mr Blair's crusade to bring his party into line with the concerns of Middle England still has far to go. However strongly Mr Blair's supporters argue that history is on his side, there is no such thing as "unstoppable momentum" in political affairs. The Opposition leader still has a long way to travel.

CRICKET AND CANTONA

A gentler game than football now reveals its charms to us

The photographer George Beldam — to whom we owe a debt for the finest action pictures taken of Grace, Ranji, Maclaren, Jessop and Trumper — would not recognise today's cricket as the game to which he devoted his finest documentary record. If he were still with us, Beldam would find [illegible] man; and nothing would [illegible] sadder than the first day of the season at Fenner's. Yorkshire professionals bullied a score of nearly 300 on a Cambridge attack that was sickly and slight, raising almost as many questions as runs scored about the technical state of our young players. Such a lopsided contest between county and university was not a feature of Beldam's time.

Yet there is much that remains unchanged. Fifty years ago, Neville Cardus wrote a slim book called *English Cricket*, part of the much-loved *Britain in Pictures* series: the observations he made in it stood unsurpassed by any writer on the game until the cerebral C.L.R.James took command of cricket's analytical frontiers. Cardus, who was the Rubens and Rembrandt of cricket writers rolled into one, wrote that "like the British constitution, cricket was not made: it has grown: its rules and its general legal system tell of the English compromise between individual freedom and corporate responsibility". His commentary still retains its vigour.

The start of the cricket season is always a timely reminder of our more gentle tastes. In spite of the intrusion of demotic bitterness — how could cricket remain immune to wider and forceful social change? — the game is still dependent, more than any other, on the character and idealism of its players. Cricket, mercifully, does not have its Eric Cantonas. It is inconceivable that a fielder on the long-off boundary, at deep square-leg or third man, would resort to anything other than banter with the spectators at his side. There could be no behaviour more out of a cricketer's character than a Cantonesque [illegible] aimed at those, however foul-[illegible] have paid to watch him play.

It cannot be denied that cricket occupies a [illegible] plane than any other English game. Cardus was not slow to recognise this: "Cricket is an institution and only a game incidentally — as the Poet Laureate might easily be a poet". And lovers of cricket have clung tenaciously to their understanding of the game as a clan or tribal rite: to no other context could the "Tebbit test" have been more inappropriately applied.

Cricket's governing values are "singular and eccentrical," to borrow Blackstone's account of the Royal Prerogative. That is why we called for Michael Atherton to be replaced after the dirt-in-the-pocket incident in last year's Lord's Test against South Africa. *Wisden*, in its 1995 edition, has preferred to dismiss the criticism of the England captain as "febrile". With respect to the revered almanack — which is as much a part of our culture as Hansard and the All England law reports — the captaincy of the English cricket team is an uncommon honour, calling for utter fidelity to the game's constitution.

For cricket is an uncommon game. Its spectators share the sense of awe and heritage which ties today's cricketers to their better-flanneled forebears. The start of every season, with its uncompetitive encounters at Fenner's and The Parks, is but the start of an old and polished fable — without Eric Cantonas.

OVEREGGING EASTER

A gaudy festival for the sweet-toothed



Chocolate Easter eggs, bunnies, chicks and even whales are enjoying their annual outing in Britain's supermarkets. The nation prepares for one of its principal Christian festivals with an ever sweeter tooth. Britons are expected to spend nearly £300 million on an extraordinary range of frilly, flashy and anthropomorphic confectionary that seems to grow more fussy and elaborate with every passing year.

The tradition began simply. Eggs were often exchanged during the spring festivals of ancient civilisations as tokens of life and resurrection. The earliest Christians celebrated the Lord's Passover at the same time as the Jews until it was transferred to the Sunday after the Jewish feast. According to Bede, the 8th-century Anglo-Saxon monk, we owe the name Easter to the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess, Eostre. By feudal times, when eggs were banned along with meat throughout the long weeks of Lent, villeins were paying their overlords with eggs at Easter. These were frequently dyed red, at first to represent the sun-and fire; later, the colour was said to show the blood of Christ shed on Calvary.

In the early 19th century the French began making chocolate eggs. By the end of the 1800s their first crude approximations had become the now familiar smooth spheres. Today, the exchange of chocolate eggs, and other treats, at Easter is taken for granted. As sophisticated consumers, we expect choice. We need it to titillate our jaded palates and manufacturers are happy to oblige. There is the Thomas the Tank Engine egg, complete with novelty egg cup and milk chocolate Fat Controller, for children. In yellow and gold, all daffodils and fluffy bunnies, there is the egg for your spouse, and the egg for your lover, a sophisticated Belgian number decorated with alluring, sepia-tinted photographs. There is the football egg, the Disney egg, the teddy bear egg — and mint eggs for granny.

Time was, not so very long ago, when most children would watch eggs turn golden or red as they boiled them in onion skins or cochineal; or painstakingly extracted the yolk and white to leave a shell they could decorate or carefully fill with chocolate as a breakfast surprise for the unwary guest. These are just some of Britain's old, creative Easter traditions. They are appropriate and touching ways to remember that nature gives us eggs as new life.

Easter eggs may often be garish, but only killjoys could disapprove of them. In a society as bereft as ours is of the symbols of feasts and festivals, they are a source of boundless delight to children. Eggs only add to Easter's jollity: even if we lament at times the fevered sales pitch of those who peddle them. Easter is not a secular day of rest, like a Bank Holiday. It is part of our faith and folklore. If gaudy eggs give us pleasure, there can be no wrong in that.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Past lessons on the 'Marchioness'

From Dr K. C. Hines

Sir, As Medical Incident Officer at the rescue operations following the sinking of the *Marchioness*, I have been following inquiries into the incident and have regretfully concluded that nothing changes (reports, April 8).

The *Marchioness* disaster was an almost exact replica of the sinkings of the *Metis* in 1867 and the *Princess Alice* in 1878. The main difference between the three events is in the number to lose their lives. When the *Marchioness* sank 51 died, when the *Princess Alice* went down about 640 people died and with the *Metis* the loss was only four. Like the *Marchioness*, the *Metis* and *Princess Alice* were pleasure vessels, and they sank in the Thames after colliding with ships many times their own size and weight.

The similarities between the incidents are striking, but the similarities in the public's reaction and subsequent inquiries are perhaps even more interesting. In each case there was a public outcry that such disaster could occur on the apparently benign Thames, in each case there was an almost desperate search for a scapegoat and in each case there were calls for improvement to river safety that would render further such incidents impossible.

At the inquest into the deaths on the *Metis* — where the low death toll was due entirely to the fact the vessel was close to shore and was effectively beached by the force of the collision — the jurors commented:

> The investigation ... has brought to light the existence of a state of things on the river which no man in his senses can contemplate without a shudder. It appears there are no rules whatever to guide captains of vessels. All is left to the chapter of accidents — to the chance that vessels will somehow or other manage to pass one another without coming into collision.

That was in 1867. Eleven years later the *Princess Alice* was in collision with the collier *Bywell Castle* and went down in midstream and with the loss of at least 640 passengers. Again there were calls for improvements in navigational controls and a series of long-winded inquiries that failed to pinpoint the cause of the accident. There were also public demands for the prosecution of the *Bywell Castle*'s captain, a man reputed to have a drink problem.

The coroner's jury demanded improved regulation of river traffic, better life-saving facilities on board passenger ships and more stringent standards for crewmen. Last week these recommendations were echoed by the coroner's jury at the inquest into the deaths on board the *Marchioness*.

As your own paper wrote, in its weekly edition on September 6, 1878:

> It seems not unlikely that, however lamentable the event may be, and however certainly it ought to be avoided, it will yet prove to be of the number of those for which no one in particular can be held to blame. The wonder indeed is, not that such an accident should have happened, but rather that it should have been so long escaped. Collisions in the Thames are of incessant occurrence. From whatever cause they are brought about, from careless navigation, or whatever else, they are to be counted literally by scores.

Will we ever learn?

Yours sincerely,
KEN HINES
(Secretary, London region,
British Association for
Immediate Care),
Eastwood Medical Centre,
Eastwood Road, E18.
April 10.

Visitors' passports

From Mr Andrew D. Durkin

Sir, Mr William Gibbons defends the British visitor's passport (BVP) with the claim "... it can be obtained at very short notice over a post office counter ..." thus facilitating "... the opportunity to travel at short notice ..." (letter, April 8). But apply for a full British passport now and within about ten days one can be ready to travel at a moment's notice any time in the next ten years.

The relatively high cost and short validity of the BVP (£12 for one year) compared to the full passport (£18 for ten years) is surely sufficient argument to silence any calls for its retention, regardless of how often one travels.

The BVP is dead, or at least gasping its last. Long live the full British passport!

Yours etc,
A. DURKIN,
17 Paragon Place, SE3.
April 8.

Forgotten royal

From Mr David Lea

Sir, In his review today of George Plumptre's life of Edward VII, John Grigg is highly critical of mistakes which escaped the editor's eye.

You, Sir, have been equally badly served by the editorial staff of your Books section. They have allowed to pass Grigg's assertion that George V was Edward VII's eldest son. The eldest was, of course, the Duke of Clarence and Avondale.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LEA,
109 Albert Street, NW1.
April 6.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Abolish income tax, then what?

From Mr David Russell

Sir, William Rees-Mogg's assertion ("A future free of income tax", April 6) that an expenditure tax would be progressive must be questioned. The basis of his claim is that "the rich spend more so they ... pay more tax".

As far as I am aware, a progressive tax is one where a relatively higher *proportion* of income is paid in tax as income increases. Expenditure clearly does not increase at a faster rate than income growth. If anything the proportion (though not the amount) of income devoted to spending tends to *fall* as income rises — and thus an expenditure tax would actually be regressive.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID RUSSELL,
21 Landcross Drive, Northampton.
April 6.

From Mr Thomas B. Haran

Sir, William Rees-Mogg's article is all very logical, but ignores the fact that a high level of savings is created by a similar level of borrowings. There is no special merit in savings as such.

It is also wrong to believe that tax havens contribute to world prosperity. They deprive governments of essential revenue to the benefit of the rich. In any event, many (possibly most in amount) of the rich run their affairs with the aid of bank borrowing.

To ease our present problems and to meet the needs of the pensioners of the next century, we have to devise an economy in which the purchasing power of the pound increases each year and prices, with the aid of technological advance, fall.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS B. HARAN,
23 Orchard Road, Bromley, Kent.
April 6.

From Mr Richard Munden

Sir, I suggest that William Rees-Mogg's enthusiasm for an expenditure tax ignores two fundamental points.

Expenditure is less than income, which is the sum of expenditure and savings. Consequently, to raise the same amount of revenue for public spending would require a higher rate of tax-per-pound spent than is currently levied on each pound earned — ie, to the public eye, an increase in the rate of tax.

Secondly, whether an expenditure is implemented by commodity taxes or by some process of assessment based on electronic recording, there would be a disincentive effect on spending. It is a canon of good taxation that a tax should be neutral and not distort behaviour.

Expenditure taxation would discourage spending on everything other than the essentials, which would have obvious effects on the national economy. There would thus be a reduction in welfare which would not be justified by a proportionate increase in revenue.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD MUNDEN,
10 Claremont Avenue,
Beverley Road,
Hull, Humberside.
April 7.

From Mr Frank Rich

Sir, The detailed explanation by Lord Rees-Mogg of the reasons for abolishing income tax failed to mention the overwhelming argument against such a course: that the alternative, a tax on consumption, is a tax from which the poor are unable to escape.

Retired people are acutely aware that VAT is already imposed on clothing, bedding, healthcare products, house repairs and domestic fuel, and will undoubtedly express their views at the polls.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK RICH,
9 Garden Close,
Hampton, Middlesex.
April 7.

From Mr H. M. C. Quick

Sir, The price for those who found themselves paying Lord Rees-Mogg's proposed expenditure taxes from savings which had been diminished, or wiped out, by income taxes up until the change was made would be disastrously high.

Yours faithfully,
H. M. C. QUICK,
Byways, Green Lane,
West Clandon, Guildford, Surrey.
April 8.

From Mr Alan Melmoth

Sir, Abolition of income tax would also mean abolition of "tax-breaks" and so of many of the major diversions of wealth from productive activity, from "consultancies" to "personal services".

All such diversions involve cashing-in on "free money" (that otherwise would be paid as tax) and thus theft from taxpayers, a process powered by tribes of accountants.

Removal of these opportunities at source must be something we are all for.

Faithfully,
ALAN MELMOTH,
17 Belgrave Crescent,
Eccles, Manchester.
April 12.

Lines to rouse the nation's pride

From Mr N. J. Milner-Gulland

Sir, In suggesting Purcell's *Fairest Isle* as our new national anthem Professor John A. Davis (letter, April 11) is right in calling it a lovely tune; but I doubt whether a song in praise of the joys of love is quite what we're after.

Other passages in the same opera, *King Arthur*, are more promising: "Our Sov'reign high in awful state / His honours shall bestow" recalls the *annus horribilis*, while "No mines can more of wealth supply" gives a sober assessment of our industrial base. "Foreign lands thy fish are tasting: / Learn from thee luxurious fasting" has a strangely contemporary ring.

But my vote would go to the catchy song which immediately precedes *Fairest Isle*:

> We'll toss off our ale till we cannot stand
> And heigh for the honour of old England
> Old England, old England ...

Yours faithfully,
N. J. MILNER-GULLAND,
Cumnor House, Danehill,
Nr Haywards Heath, Sussex.
April 11.

From Mr Brian North Lee

Sir, I suspect that few people would wish *God Save the Queen* to be ousted, for the Queen is widely revered and admired. A possibly happy compromise would be a rewriting of the awful second verse, replacing scattering enemies, making them fall, confounding their knavish tricks, etc, with words about national pride and allegiance.

The tune affords little space, and the wording would have to be simple and direct. Such a solution could provide alternative wordings as appropriate: for ordinary use the accustomed first verse, with a patriotic one to follow; for occasions on which Her Majesty is present the first verse followed by the rather splendid third original, beginning "Thy choicest gifts in store, On her be pleased to pour".

The harmonies of the tune itself could also be improved. Benjamin Britten produced one, which could be considered alongside any contemporary variants which strike the right note.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN NORTH LEE,
32 Barrowgate Road, Chiswick, W4.
April 12.

From Mr David Hatchell

Sir, No, it is not time to change the national anthem but to enhance it.

Perhaps we should take back into use the lines from the third of three "extra" verses composed by W. E. Hickson in the 19th century and printed in *The English Hymnal*, in order to express what must be a world-wide, as well as a national, prayer:

> Lord, make the nations see
> That men should brothers be.
> To form one family
> The wide world o'er.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HATCHELL,
Heathcot, Pine View Close,
Chilworth, Guildford, Surrey.

From Mrs Julia Vanderpump

Sir, Professor Davis suggests that the Isle of Man might wish to be associated with his choice of an alternative national anthem, Purcell's *Fairest Isle*. May I point out that as a Crown dependency our island is not within the United Kingdom and we do in fact have our own very jolly national anthem. The first verse is as follows:

> O land of our birth,
> O gem of God's earth,
> O Island so strong and so fair:
> Built firm as Barrule,
> Thy throne of Home Rule
> Makes us free as thy sweet mountain air

As far as the Manx are concerned the Isle of Man *is* the fairest isle.

Yours faithfully,
JULIA VANDERPUMP,
1 Bradda Glen Close,
Port Erin, Isle of Man.
April 12.

From Mr D. Lee McLernon

Sir, I'm not sure if the Queen would mind if the national anthem was replaced by Purcell's *Fairest Isle*, but I know that the majority of people in Northern Ireland would. An anthem which encompasses all the parts of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is required.

Yours faithfully,
LEE McLERNON,
44 Lyndhurst Avenue,
Bangor, Co. Down.
April 11.

London's hospitals

From Lord Flowers, FRS

Sir, Once again changes have been proposed for hospital services in London (letters, April 7, 10), and once again there has been a great clamour of protest.

During the past twenty years and more, with a few honourable exceptions, every attempt to reform London medicine has been defeated by vigorous rearguard action on behalf of any hospital or medical school adversely affected. The result has been that the standing of teaching and research in London's famed medical schools has been steadily slipping with respect to competitors at home and abroad, and with that there has been an inevitable erosion in the quality of care offered to patients.

The Department of Health now proposes to concentrate hospital provision for London around four major centres of teaching and research, each of them capable of being among the foremost medical institutions in the world. The alternative is to spread a little more money around the schools and hospitals we now have; but since that would totally fail to address the structural weakness underlying the London problem it would merely postpone by yet another few years the time when radical action has to be taken.

In the matter of London medicine the time has come for the Government to stand firm.

Yours faithfully,
FLOWERS,
House of Lords.
April 12.

From Mr Lewis Stretch

Sir, As within my family we have experienced the value of Bart's casualty service with its backing of first-class consultants when damage has turned out to need specialist attention, may I challenge the arguments being aired both for and against its retention.

The antiquity of its foundation is as irrelevant as the desirability of tidying up London University's peculiar academic structure (Lord Annan's letter, April 7) or the provision of GP and community services (Lord Jenkin's letter of the same day).

The problem is providing adequate medical services for the vast numbers who pour into the City to work each day, and who are vulnerable either to run-of-the mill accidents or major incidents. To close the one hospital on this spot is nonsense.

If the NHS cannot afford to maintain it, the City certainly could. So one must wonder whether, as in so many recent sell-offs, the main interest of the Department is in getting its hands on the capital value of the site.

Yours faithfully,
LEWIS STRETCH,
3 Laroc Close,
Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire.
April 7.

From Dr Harold N. Chadwick

Sir, I am intrigued by the comment in your leading article, April 6:

> Waiting lists for routine hospital treatment are long ... The principle that resources should be shifted from specialist into primary services cannot be faulted.

In fact it is obvious to most doctors that more specialists (ie, consultants) are needed to reduce the waiting time for routine hospital treatment. More money for primary care will *never* achieve this objective.

Yours sincerely,
HAROLD CHADWICK,
The Peppard Road Surgery,
45 Peppard Road,
Caversham, Reading, Berkshire.
April 7.

Easter offerings

From the Archdeacon of St Albans

Sir, When it was no longer possible to give the Easter Day collection to the incumbent without his being liable for income tax on it (letters, April 10, 12), at least one parish I know determined that it should be sent to the discretionary fund which the archdeacons of this diocese operate on behalf of clergy and their families.

This way, the spirit of the Easter offering is continued and is shared more widely.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP DAVIES,
6 Sopwell Lane,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

From Mrs J. D. O. Hinton

Sir, When my husband was rector of one parish and vicar of another a cherished tradition was the arrival of my uncle (his parishioner) on Easter morning with a couple of bottles. As he delivered them he always said: "Just let the Chancellor try to get his hands on that."

Yours faithfully,
ROSALIND HINTON,
Tower House,
Clifton Down Road, Bristol, Avon.
April 11.

From Professor Emeritus Herbert H. Huxley

Sir, Or perhaps these days the offering should be marked for "the Vicar's husband" (Mrs Janet Kingston's letter, April 12).

Yours sincerely,
HERBERT H. HUXLEY,
12 Derwent Close, Cambridge.
April 12.

Bats in the belfry

From the Venerable G. B. Austin, Archdeacon of York

Sir, Archdeacons often face the problem of clergy with bats in the belfry (report, later editions, April 12; letter, April 13). There is no easy solution, and I can only tender the one which a country rector recommended.

"In the end after many failures", he said, "I called in the Bishop. He climbed up into the tower and confirmed all the bats. Never seen one of them in church since."

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE AUSTIN,
7 Lang Road,
Bishopthorpe, York.
April 13.

Weekend Money letters, page 30

COURT CIRCULAR

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 14: The Duchess of Kent this morning visited Southern Cross Homes Incorporated, Adelaide, South Australia.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon attended a Service, the Cathedral Church of St Francis Xavier, Adelaide.

Anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: Leonhard Euler, mathematician and physicist, Basle, 1707; Sir James Clark Ross, Arctic explorer, London, 1800; Henry James, writer, New York, 1843; Stanley Bruce, 1st Viscount Bruce of Melbourne, Prime Minister of Australia 1923-29, Melbourne, 1883; Bessie Smith, "empress of the blues", Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1894.

DEATHS: Richard Mulcaster, author, Stanford Rivers, Essex, 1611; Hubert Robert, landscape painter, Paris, 1808; John Bell, surgeon, Rome, 1820; Abraham Lincoln, 16th American president 1861-65, assassinated at Ford's Theatre, Washington, 1865; Matthew Arnold, poet and critic, Liverpool, 1888; William Thomas Stead, journalist, perished on the *Titanic*, 1912; John Singer Sargent, portrait painter, London, 1925; Jean-Paul Sartre, existentialist, Paris, 1980; Sir William Empson, critic, London, 1984; Greta Garbo, actress, New York, 1990.

Dr Samuel Johnson published his *Dictionary*, 1755.

The White Star liner *Titanic* sank on her maiden voyage after striking an iceberg: 1,523 people died, 1912.

Sir James Barrie donated the copyright fee of his play *Peter Pan* to the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, London, 1925.

The population of Malta was awarded the George Cross for gallantry during the Second World War, 1942.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: Jules-Hardouin Mansard, architect, Paris, 1646; Sir Hans Sloane, physician and naturalist, Killyleagh, Co Down, 1660; Charles Montagu, Earl of Halifax, statesman, President of the Royal Society 1695-98, Horton, Northamptonshire, 1661; Sir John Franklin, Arctic explorer, Spilsbury, Lincolnshire, 1786; Joseph Black, chemist, Bordeaux, 1728; Anatole France, novelist and critic, Paris, 1844; Wilbur Wright, pioneer of aviation, Milville, Indiana, 1867; John Millington Synge, dramatist, Newtown Linen, near Dublin, 1871; Edward Frederick Lindley Wood, 1st Earl of Halifax, statesman, Viceroy of India 1926-31, Powderham Castle, Devon, 1881; Sir Charles (Charlie) Chaplin, actor, London, 1889; Sir John Bagot Glubb (Glubb Pasha), commander of the Arab Legion 1939-56, Preston, Lancashire, 1897.

DEATHS: George Villiers, 2nd Duke of Buckingham, statesman, Kirkby Moorside, Yorkshire, 1687; Aphra Behn, dramatist and novelist, London, 1689; Henry Fuseli, painter and writer, London, 1825; Francesco de Goya, painter, Bordeaux, 1828; Marie Tussaud, founder of the waxworks exhibition, London, 1850; Alexis Charles de Tocqueville, historian, Cannes, 1859; St Bernadette of Lourdes, Nevers, France, 1879; Samuel Smiles, social reformer, London, 1904; Edna Ferber, novelist, New York, 1968.

The Duke of Cumberland's forces defeated the Jacobite Scots at the Battle of Culloden, 1746.

The Royal Yacht *Britannia* was launched, 1953.

The communist Khmer Rouge seized Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia, 1975.

Appointments

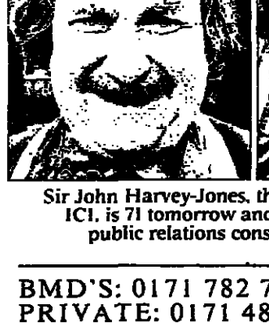
Judge Elisabeth Fisher and Judge Martin Stephens, QC, to the Criminal Committee of the Judicial Studies Board in succession to Mrs Justice Steel and Judge Fitchers respectively.

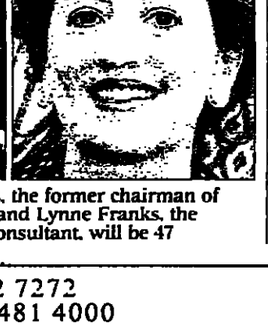
Weekend birthdays

The Queen of Denmark celebrates her 55th birthday tomorrow.

TODAY: Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, 55; Dame Jocelyn Barrow, former deputy chairman, Broadcasting Standards Council, 66; Professor T. Brooke Benjamin, applied mathematician, 66; Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, civil servant, 64; Group Captain David Bolton, former director RUSI, 63; Professor Sir Michael Bond, Vice-Principal, Glasgow University, 59; Sir Adrian Cadbury, former chairman, Cadbury Schweppes, 66; Miss Claudia Cardinale, actress, 57; Sir Richard Evans, diplomat, 67; Lord Geraint, 70; Lord Grey of Naunton, 85; Sir Tim Lankester, economist, 53; Sir Neville Marriner, conductor, 71; Professor C.D. Marsden, neurologist, 57; Sir Peter Menzies, former chairman, Electricity Council, 83; Mr Alan Plater, scriptwriter, 60; Mr A.J.P. Ross, former chairman, Joint Consultants Committee, 60; Earl Russell, 58; Sir Maurice Shock, former Rector, Lincoln College, Oxford, 69; Sir Leslie Smith, former chairman, BOC Group, 76; Mr G.H. Stafford, former Master, St Cross College, Oxford, 75; Miss Emma Thompson, actress, 36; Miss Meriol Trevor, author, 76; Dr Richard von Weizsäcker, former President of Germany, 75; Sir Douglas Wass, civil servant, 72.

TOMORROW: Lord Aberconway, 82; Sir Kingsley Amis, author, 73; Miss Joan Bakewell, broadcaster, 62; Lord Camoys, 55; Mr Michael Hirst, former Chief Constable, Leicestershire, 57; Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, MP, 71; Mr Richard Lawrence, former chief executive, Royal School of Church Music, 49; Miss Margaret Maden, educationist, 55; Miss Ruth Madoc, actress, 52; Mr P.I. Marshall, chairman, Ocean Group, 68; Miss Conchita Martinez, tennis player, 23; Mr Spike Milligan, author and comedian, 77; Sir Geoffrey Owen, former Editor, *The Financial Times*, 61; Mr David Porter, MP, 47; Judge Rant, QC, Judge Advocate General, 59; Sir John Robson, diplomat, 65; Miss Constance Shacklock, opera singer, 82; Mr Llewellyn Smith, MP, and former MEP, 51; Dr W.T. Stearn, botanist, 84; Professor Barbara Tizard, educationist, 69; Sir Peter Ustinov, actor, 74; Mr Frank Williams, managing director, Williams Grand Prix Engineering, 53.





Sir John Harvey-Jones, the former chairman of ICI, is 71 tomorrow and Lynne Franks, the public relations consultant, will be 47



DENZIL MONEELANCE

Edith Haisman in the *Titanic* memorial garden: "There was no hope for anyone; everybody just panicked."

Survivor recalls horror of Titanic

BY A STAFF REPORTER

EDITH HAISMAN, who at 98 is the oldest survivor of the *Titanic* disaster, is to open a memorial garden to the victims on the 83rd anniversary today.

The garden at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, is London's first permanent tribute to the 1,523 people who perished and coincides with an exhibition of artefacts from the wreck on display at the museum.

Mrs Haisman, from Southampton, was 15 when she accompanied her parents on the liner to start a new life at a Seattle hotel they had bought. Yesterday she recalled standing on the deck of the stricken ship after the *Titanic* had hit an iceberg at 11.40pm on April 14, 1912. She remembered spotting a light assumed to be from a passing ship. "I said, 'Look father, that ship has come to rescue us,' but the next minute the light was out and there was no ship at all.

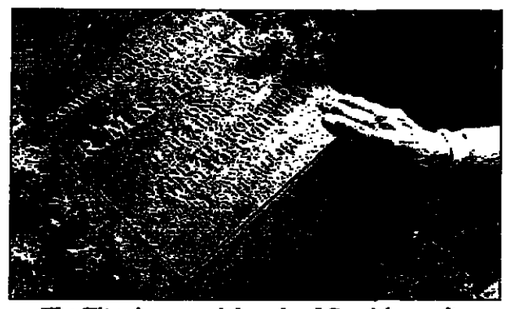
"At first there was no panic because everybody was so stunned by what had happened. They didn't realise the *Titanic* was sinking. Nobody did. In the last minutes everybody was standing to get off the ship as they started to realise something was wrong." The girl and her mother got into a lifeboat and waved to their father, who was left on deck smoking a cigar and drinking brandy. He waved and said: "I will see you in New York." The father did not survive.

Recalling the view from the lifeboat, she said: "Most of the men jumped overboard into the sea. Those who could swim swam and those who could not swim sank. There was no hope for anyone. Everybody just panicked and they disappeared in the sea."

When mother and daughter arrived in New York they were penniless and abandoning plans to stay in the USA, returned to Britain.

Mrs Haisman, a great great grandmother, said the small garden and monument were a beautiful tribute to the vessel's dead. She has just published her biography, *A Lifetime on the Titanic*.

The *Titanic* exhibition, featuring more than 150 artefacts recovered from the sea bed, has been extended to October 1 after attracting 300,000 visitors. Laura Weston, of the National Maritime Museum, said the ship had an enduring fascination. "She was the most luxurious liner afloat, supposedly a triumph of technology and a time capsule of Edwardian life."



The *Titanic* memorial made of Cornish granite

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.J. Cook and Miss B.C. Gainer
The forthcoming marriage is announced between Christopher, only son of Mr and Mrs Trevor Cook, of Hornsea, East Yorkshire, and Belynda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Gainer, of Prestwood, Buckinghamshire.

Mr R.J. Cubitt and Miss A.E.R. Stubbs
The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of Mr Robert Cubitt and of the late Mrs Angela Cubitt, of Wickham Skeith, Suffolk, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gilmour Stubbs, of Knutsford, Cheshire.

Mr C. Gilmore and Miss S. Zamir
The marriage will today, Easter Saturday, take place at Morden Cottage (Register Office) of Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs William Gilmore, of Hampshire, and Salma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Z. Ahmad, of Surrey.

Mr C.E.J. Green and Miss J. Bonanno
The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Green, of Llawryglyn, Powys, and Josie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Antonino Bonanno, of Stoney Creek, Ontario.

Mr J.E. Green and Miss B. Ajami
The engagement is announced between Julian, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Green, of Llawryglyn, Powys, formerly of Royal Leamington Spa, and Bahareh, daughter of Dr and Mrs Amir Ajami, of Tucson, Arizona.

Mr M.J. Griffiths and Mrs P. Martin
The engagement is announced between Michael John Griffiths, of Mead Farm, Yarnton, Oxford, and Penelope Martin, of Wychwood, Headington, Oxford.

Mr B.W.R. Lane and Miss L.K. Bramall
The engagement is announced between Barnaby, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A.J. Lane, of East Grinstead, West Sussex, and Leena Kathryn, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.P. Bramall, of Riddlesden, Keighley, Yorkshire.

Mr G.T.P. O'Malley and Miss K.L.J. Dighton
The engagement is announced between Gerard, son of Mr and Mrs Martin O'Malley, of Orpington, Kent, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Leslie Dighton, of Wimbledon, London, SW19.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev John Ablewhite, Priest-in-charge, All Saints, South Lynn (Norwich): to be Vicar, St Luke (New Brompton), Gillingham (Rochester).

The Rev Nicholas Ball, Vicar, St Michael and All Angels, Bartley Green: to be Priest-in-charge, St Peter, Hall Green (Birmingham).

The Rev Paddy Benson, Assistant Curate, St Mary, Upton: to be Vicar, Barnston w Pensby (Chester).

The Rev Janet Chapman, Honorary Assistant Deacon, Church of the Good Shepherd, Murrayfield (Edinburgh): to be Assistant Curate (NSM), Rufforth w Moor Monkton and Hessay; and Long Marston (York).

The Rev Frank Collins, Curate, St Peter w St Owen and St James, Hereford (Hereford): to be a Royal Army Chaplain.

The Rev Derek Dalton, Rector, Wensley and Vicar, West Witton: to be Rector, Romaldkirk w Laithkirk (Ripon).

The Rev Peter Dowman, Rector, Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre (Chelmsford): to be CPAS Regional Consultant in the East, representing the dioceses of Lincoln, Ely, Norwich, St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, St Albans and Chelmsford.

The Rev Martin Dudley, Vicar, Owlsmoor (Oxford): to be Rector, St Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield (London).

The Rev Catherine Dyer, Associate Priest, Wokingham All Saints: to be Team Vicar, St Andrew's, Cippenham (LEP) in the West Slough Team Ministry (Oxford).

The Rev Joseph Elliott, Priest-in-charge, Belmont: to be Vicar, Belmont (Durham).

The Rev David Felix, Vicar, St Andrew Grange: to be also part-time Chaplain of Halton Hospital (Chester).

The Rev Ian Fowle, Rector, Crofton All Saints, and Acting Rural Dean of Chevet: to be Rural Dean of Chevet (Wakefield).

The Rev Christopher Houghton, Curate, St Thomas, Ashton-in-Makerfield: to be Curate, Saints Peter and Paul, Southport (Liverpool).

The Rev Bill Hulse, Vicar, Shadwell: to be Vicar, Oulton w Woodlesford (Ripon).

The Rev David Jackson, Assistant Curate, Desborough (Peterborough): to be Assistant Curate, St Mary, Eastham (Chester).

Church services for Easter Sunday

ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Hereford Service (Lloyd), This Joyful Eastertide (Wood), the Bishop; 6.30 Choral E, Stanford in C, Blessed by the God and Father (Wesley), the Provost.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M, Glorious and Powerful God (Stanford); 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart), the Bishop; 4 Festal E, Rise heart thy Lord is risen (Vaughan Williams), Canon Parfitt.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Messe Solenelle (Vierne), Dum Transisset (Tavener), the Bishop; 3.30 Choral E, Responses (Clucas), Stanford in C, Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley), Canon P Johnson.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, This Joyful Eastertide (arr Wood), Responses (Walsh), Britten in C, Haec Dies (Wood); 11 S Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart), Pascha nostrum (Byrd), the Archbishop; 3.15 E, Responses (Walsh), Stanford in A, Ecce vicit leo (Phillips); 6.30 Compline, Rev Dr M J Chandler.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Schubert in G, The Dean; 3 E, Christ the Lord is risen again (Foster), Responses (Clucas), Jesus Service (Mathias), Hallelujah Chorus (Handel).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 5 (Dawn), 9.30 Euch, Canon B Thompson; 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 11.15 S Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart), This joyful Eastertide (arr Wood), the Bishop; 6 Choral E, Procession, Responses (Rose), Stanford in A, Rise Heart (Vaughan Williams), The Provost.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Euch; 11.30 Choral M; 3.30 Choral E; 6.30 ES.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8, 9 HC; 10 M, Coll Reg (Howells), Responses (Clucas), Haec dies (Wood), The Dean; 11 S Euch, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow), This joyful Eastertide (Wood), the Bishop; 3.30 E, Hawes in D, This the day of resurrection (Wood), Christ the Lord is risen again (Foster), Responses (Clucas).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 5, 10.30 Euch, Darke in E, This joyful Eastertide (Wood), Jesus Christ is risen (Wright), Rise heart thy Lord is risen (Vaughan Williams), Rt Rev S Barrington; 5.30 E & Procession, This joyful Eastertide (Wood), Responses (Walsh), Murrill in E, Rise heart thy Lord is risen (Vaughan Williams), Hallelujah Chorus (Handel).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8, 11 HC, Easter Acclamations (Eden), Organ Solo: Mass (Mozart), Dum transisset Sabbatum (Tavener), the Bishop; 10 M, Responses (Rose), Te Deum in G (Vaughan Williams), Jubilate in C (Britten), This Joyful Eastertide (arr Wood), The Dean; 3.30 E, Easter Acclamations (Eden), Walmisley in D minor, Blessed be the God & Father (Wesley).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 7.30, 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Solemnis in C (Mozart), Hallelujah Chorus (Handel), Laudate Dominum (Mozart), The Dean; 3.45 E & Procession, My Lord is hence removed (Amner), Preces (Rose), Dyson in D, Worthy is the Lamb (Handel), Harwood in A flat.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, This joyful Eastertide (Dutch/Wood), Mozart in C, Blessed be the God and Father (SS Wesley), The Provost; 4 Choral E, Dyson in C, Responses (Smith), Stanford in C, Canon Chancellor.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Sancti Nicholai (Haydn), Haec dies (Byrd), Tantum ergo (Duruflé), the Bishop; 3.30 E, Responses (Rose), St Paul's Service (Howells), Blessed be God the Father (SS Wesley).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, HC; 9.30 S Euch, Missa sancti Nicolai (Haydn), the Bishop; 11.15 M, Now the green blade riseth, Coll Reg (Howells), Hallelujah (Handel), the Chancellor.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch, Schubert in G, the Bishop; 3 Festival E, Wood in F (Coll Regl), the Dean; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 12.15 H Euch, The Dean; 7.30 M; 9 Euch & Procession, The Dean; 10.45 S Euch & Procession, Mass in B flat, Schubert, This joyful Eastertide (arr Wood), the Lord Bishop; 3.30 SE, Dyson in D, The strife is o'er, Shepherds; 6.30 Parish E, Rev Canon D Richards.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Canon A Radcliffe; 6.30 E, Second Service (Gibbons), The Dean.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 5.30 Easter Liturgy, Rengeu!! Mass (Gouzes), Surrexit dominus vere, Rev Dr S Barton; 8 HC; 10 Euch, This joyful Eastertide, Sarum Mass (Leighton), Haec dies (Byrd), V Rev H Dickinson; 11.45 Easter Morning Service, the Bishop; 3 E & Procession, Responses (Rose), Magdalen Service (Leighton), Ye choirs of new Jerusalem (Shephard).

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 MP; 9.30 C, the Archdeacon; 11 Euch, the Bishop; 6.30 Festival E, Canon T Page.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, Schubert in G, Haec dies (Byrd), This joyful Eastertide (arr Wood), Christ being raised from the dead (Moore), the Bishop; 3 Choral E, Noble in B minor, Coll Reg (Howells), Rise heart thy Lord is risen (Vaughan Williams), Rev Canon D Painter.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M, the Chancellor; 10 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Dum transisset Sabbatum (Tavener), the Bishop; 6 E, Responses (Sanders), Dyson in D, Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley), the Chancellor.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch Coronation Mass, K317 (Mozart), Since by man came death (Handel), Dum transisset (Tavener), the Dean; 3 E, Responses (Rose), Westminster Service (Howells), Rise heart (Vaughan Williams), Rev Canon S Van Culin; 6.30 ES, Canon A Harvey.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12.15, 5.30, 7 M; 10.30 SM, Missa Solemnis in C K337 (Mozart), Hallelujah, For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth (Handel), Ave verum corpus (Mozart), Victimae Paschali (Tournemire); 10 MP; 3.30 V&B, Magnificat primi toni (Bevan), O sacrum convivium (Guerrero), HE the Cardinal.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8 HC; 10.30 M, Responses (Lloyd), Stanford in B flat, Since by man came death (Handel), Bishop of Southampton; 11.30 Euch, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart), Dum transisset sabbatum (Tavener), Fêtes (Langlais); 3.30 Festal E & Procession, Dyson in D, Hallelujah (Handel), The Dean.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Spatzenmesse (Mozart), Die Nobis Maria (Bassano), Most Rev J Habgood; 11.30 M, Britten in E & C; 4 E, Stanford in B flat, Responses (Smith), Worthy is the Lamb (Handel), Rev Canon R Hockely.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Darke in E, Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Bairstow), the Archbishop of Wales; 3.30 Choral E, Coll Reg (Howells), Responses (Clucas), Easter (Vaughan Williams).

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 9.30 Euch; 11 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Easter Anthems (Scott), Dum transisset sabbatum (Tavener), the Lord Bishop of London; 3.15 E, Bairstow in D, This the day of resurrection (Wood), Responses (Leighton), Te Deum in C (Britten), Rev J Hallburton; 5.15 ES, Rev John Paul.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Coronation Mass (Mozart), In exitu Israel (S Wesley), Rev P McGrezry; 6 E&B, Dyson in D, Haec dies (Byrd), Rev P Johnstone.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 C; 11, Rev J Cook; 6.30, Rev Preb R Bews.

THE ANNUNCIATION, Bryanston St, W1: 11 SM, Missa Bell' Amfrit' altera, Aurora Lucis Rutilat (Lassus).

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11, Missa rorate coelis desuper (Haydn), If we believe that Jesus died (Goss), Dum Transisset Sabbatum (Tavener).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10 Children; 11 M, This Joyful Eastertide (arr Wood), Benedicite (Purcell in B flat), Easter anthems (Woodward), Rev P Elvy; 6 E, Rev P Elvy.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 HC; 6.30, Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 SM, Missa Brevis K275 (Mozart), Terra Tremuit (Byrd), Haec Dies (Palestrina), Fr V Hawe.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 8 HC, Rev S Downham; 11 Informal, Rev S Millar; 5; 7.30 Informal, Captain R Read.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 M, Mass in G (Stanford), Surgens Jesus (Phillips); 12.30, 4.30, 7; 5.30 V & B, Haec dies (Palestrina).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Divine Liturgy, "Zadig" Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 11 MS & HC, Rev P Hulme.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30, Rev Dr R John Tudor.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev P Schmiege; V (Week): Easter Oratorio (Bach), Rev P Schmiege.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch, Coll Reg (Howells), Alleluia I heard a voice (Weelkes), Rev B McAvoy.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 HC, Rev J McIndoe; 6.30 Carols & Readings.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 SM, Coronation Mass (Mozart).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Coronation Mass/Hallelujah Chorus (Mozart), the Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, John Paul, Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 9 Liturgy, Missa Sancti Nicholai (Haydn).

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Tomorrow shall be my dancing day (arr Ansdell Evans), Rev S Watson; 6.30 Choral E, Ave Regina coelorum (Guerrero), Rev D Watson.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Coronation Mass in C (Mozart), Jubilate Deo (Britten), Rev T Devonshire Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis in F (Haydn), Christ rising again (Tye), Rev R Holloway.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 5.30 Easter Vigil; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.45 Euch, St Martin Service (Stringer), Achieved is the glorious work (Haydn), Haec dies quam fecit Dominus (Palestrina), This joyful Eastertide (Wood), the Vicar; 11.30 Visitors, Responses (Grier), This joyful Eastertide (Wood), Ye choirs of new Jerusalem (Stanford), Rev J Pridmore; 2.45 Chinese, Rev J Bennett; 5 Choral E, Responses (Neary), Stanford in C, Gloria in excelsis Deo (Weelkes); 6.30 ES, Rev B Schunemann.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 9.30 Euch, the Vicar; 11.15 Choral M, the Vicar; 6.30 E, Rev P Gelli; 7 Easter Liturgy & First Communion of Easter.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Communion Service, Coll Reg (Howells), Fr J Gilling; 6 E&B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 5.30 Easter Vigil & Euch; 8 HC; 10.30 Festal Euch, Schubert in G Lobet den Herrn (Bach), Rev J Ovenden; 6 Choral E, Stanford in C, Blessed be the God & Father (Wesley).

ST. MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart), Ye choirs of New Jerusalem (Richard Shephard); 6 EP.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart), Haec Dies/Sing Joyfully (Byrd), Rev C Courtauld.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Nelson Mass (Haydn), Ave verum corpus (Mozart), Te Deum (Demessieux), Rev D B Tillyer.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 SM, Jugendmesse Hob XIII (Haydn), Since by man came death, I know that my Redeemer liveth (Handel), Canon C Colven; 6 E & B.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15, 12.15 HC; 11 M, Responses (Radcliffe), Coll Reg (Howells), Rise heart thy Lord is risen (Vaughan Williams); 3 Choral E, Responses, Third Service (Byrd), O clap your hands (Gibbons), Canon J G Murphy.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 S Euch, Schubert in G, Rev W Booth.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 11 Choral Euch, Stanford in C, Easter (Armstrong Gibbs); 3.30 E, This joyful Eastertide (arr Llewellyn); Dyson in D, In exitu Israel (S Wesley).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 8.15 HC; 11 Procession & Mass of Resurrection, Nelson Mass (Haydn), Rev S Hobbs.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Darke in F, The Chaplain.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 Choral HC, This is the day (Anon), Kyrie, Orgelmesse (Haydn), Up my heart with gladness (Bach), The Chaplain.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, This joyful Eastertide, The strife is o'er (Henry Ley), Rev C French.

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ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, This joyful Eastertide, The strife is o'er (Henry Ley), Rev C French.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

The Lord's love is surely not exhausted, nor has his compassion failed; they are new every morning, so great is his constancy.
Lamentations 3 : 22.23 (REB)

BIRTHS

EDWARDS - On 25th March, to Jane (née Benson) and David, a son, Anthony Christopher Kendrick.

FENTON FOWLER - On 9th April at the Wellington Hospital, to Morag Fenton and Stephen Fowler, a beloved son and companion explorer Edmund Caradoc Fitzroy. Thanks to Mr Clements and midwives.

GARMOYLE - On April 3rd, to Juliet and Hugh a daughter, Tara Cairns, a sister for Oliver.

GARRAWAY - On April 5th 1995, to Sandra (née Jones) and Mark, a son, Nicholas Robert, a brother for Jessica and Emma.

GAYSFORD - On April 12th 1995 at St Thomas' Hospital, to Joanne and Simon, a beautiful son, Conrad.

KOCH de GOOREYND - On 14th March, to Carolyn (née Parker) and Peter, a son, Timothy "Luke" Ladislas, a brother for Tamara.

OSBORNE - On 6th April, to Stephanie and Daniel, a beautiful daughter, Annie Sophia.

PARSONS - On 12th April 1995 to Angie (née Peck) and Kevin, a son, Henry Lloyd, a brother for Casey.

BIRTHS

RIBAROFF - On March 3rd at the Wellington Hospital, to Denise and Alex, twins!! Thomas and Sofia, a brother and sister for George.

SHEARING - On 4th April at North Herts NHS Trust, to Karen and Mark, George.

STOCKS - On March 22nd, to Sara (née Bonallack) and Ben, a daughter, Natasha Rose.

DEATHS

BATES - Marjorie, wife of the late Henry Bates, died peacefully on April 6th. Funeral Service at Crofton Old Church on Friday April 21st at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to The Friends of Crofton Old Church c/o A.H. Freemantle, South Street, Titchfield, PO14 4DY.

BRYANT - On April 11th 1995, suddenly at Ellesmere, Shropshire. Ruth, in her 87th year. A greatly loved sister, aunt, great-aunt and friend. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Ellesmere on Friday, 21st April at 2 pm.

CHURCHILL - On 11th April 1995 suddenly in hospital Gerald Innes aged 82, beloved husband of Odile and of Elizabeth who died in 1967. He will be sadly missed by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Requiem Mass at Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton at 11 am on Tuesday 18th April. Donations to Leukaemia Research Fund.

DEATHS

COMER - On April 10th 1995 suddenly at home after a short illness, Stephen Conner, loved husband of Gillian and dear father of Christopher and Elizabeth, and grandfather. Son of the late Rev. and Mrs Ernest Comer of Halifax and brother of the late Mary and John and of Margaret and Michael. Honorary Life

OBITUARIES

BURL IVES

Burl Ives, folk singer and actor, died yesterday in Anacortes, Washington State, aged 85. He was born in Hunt, Illinois, on June 14, 1909.



A BIG, rotund, avuncular man with a striking beard, Burl Ives was good enough as an actor to win an Oscar and was the original Big Daddy in Tennessee Williams's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. But he had another and perhaps even greater impact on the international public consciousness as a genial singer of Anglo-American folk music who, perhaps more than any other, brought that genre to the ears of a general public which was otherwise completely divorced from its roots.

He recorded more than two hundred songs and his versions of folk standards such as *I Know an Old Lady (Who Swallowed a Fly)*, *The Foggy Foggy Dew* and *The Big Rock Candy Mountain* became classics, enjoyed not least by generations of children.

His vocal range was narrow and his prowess on the guitar did not extend much beyond three basic chords but such limitations paled before the warmth of his delivery and his deep affection for the folk tradition. His 6ft height and 20 stone bulk gave him a considerable stage presence, and if he sometimes gave the impression of being artless, that was part of his appeal. During the 1950s and 1960s, an era of increasingly commercialised crooners, he stood out, a simple bearded troubadour performing unsophisticated songs without tricks or embellishments. He played to presidents and prime ministers and single-handedly filled concert halls on both sides of the Atlantic. He also became an authority on folk music and an inspiration to younger performers.

Through his recordings he built up a considerable following among folk music devotees in Britain well before his first British tour in 1949 and returned for sell-out tours in 1952 and 1953 which included solo performances at the Royal Festival Hall, and again in 1971 and 1979.

Burl Icle Ivanhoe Ives was born in the Illinois "Bible Belt", one of six children of an Anglo-Irish family. His father of was of English stock and his mother Kentucky-Irish but he claimed he could trace his American ancestry back to the 17th century.

He learnt his first songs from his grandmother who, he said, "smoked a stone pipe, chewed tobacco and could hit a cat in the eye with one spit". He then ran away from school with 15 cents in his pocket and a banjo under his arm, and traversed America, sleeping rough, singing in bars and listening to and learning the folksongs of the various communities he visited — lumberjacks, cowboys, steelworkers and fishermen.

His travels took him across the United States through Canada and Mexico. He chronicled his travels in a 1948 autobiography, *Wayfaring Stranger*, written when he was 38.

Although he was a contemporary of Woody Guthrie, Josh White and, a little later, Pete Seeger, Burl Ives musical output was less politically inclined, concentrating more on anecdotal songs and nonsense rhymes with a universal appeal.

During the 1930s he arrived in New York, took voice training lessons, went to college and became a professional footballer. But college theatricals gave him a taste for acting and he made his debut in 1938 in Eugene O'Neill's *Ah, Wilderness!*

In the same year he got his start on Broadway in *The Boys From Syracuse*, a Rodgers and Hammerstein musical based on Shakespeare's *A Comedy of Errors*.

In 1942 he was called up for the US Army and made his stage-singing debut in the chorus of Irving Berlin's services show, *This Is the Army*. He made his first film, *Smoky*, in 1946, and for several years afterwards appeared mainly as the guitar-strumming cowboy in family westerns. But during the 1950s, starting with Steinbeck's *East of Eden* in 1954, he began to emerge as a serious actor.

He continued singing, however, even though, at that time, folk music was not widely appreciated in some of the more urban areas of America. He once recalled that he was sometimes barracked for performing the more esoteric of folk songs.

One night, after singing a tender ballad, *I Gave My Love a Cherry*, he became involved in a fight with a heckler who jeered at him for singing a "sissy song". He said he punched the troublemaker to the floor but ended up with two black eyes.

It happened that, the day after this fracas, he ran into Elia Kazan, who was casting for the Broadway production of Tennessee Williams's play *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Kazan was impressed by his battered appearance. "He said he knew then that I was an aggressive male," Ives said. "It's one of the reasons I got Cat."

Ives said he persuaded Kazan and Williams to go along with his suggestion that the Southern patriarch, Big Daddy, be played like an old-time preacher and he went on to give what was to become the definitive performance of the part.

His portrayal of Big Daddy in the film version of the play in 1957 was certainly his finest screen performance, but he also had strong roles in three films released in 1958: *Desire Under the Elms*, an Irwin Shaw adaption of a Eugene O'Neill play which also featured Sophia Loren and Anthony Perkins; *Wind Across the Everglades*, a turn of the century story set in Florida written by Bud Schulberg and also featuring Christopher Plummer and Gypsy Rose Lee; and *The Big Country*, a western directed by William Wyler and starring Gregory Peck, Jean Simmons and Charlton Heston, for which Ives won his Oscar for best supporting actor for his portrayal of one of the feuding landowners. He continued to perform as a folk singer and to make films up to the end of the 1970s, and he was much seen on television. He starred as a self-made millionaire trying to get his children into society in the comedy series, *OK Crackerby*, and as a lawyer in *The Bold Ones*. He also appeared in several made-for-television films.

By this time kidney surgery and a diet had scaled away a good deal of his girth and his singing preoccupations had become more overtly religious. However, he always avoided singing Negro spirituals, because, he said, "I have never heard a white person give to a spiritual what it deserves".

He sang and acted well into his seventies and gave a solo performance in 1993, to benefit a community foundation in Washington State.

Burl Ives's first marriage ended in divorce in 1971 and in the same year, in London, he married Mrs Dorothy Koster, an interior designer. She survives him together with his three adopted children.

PROFESSOR RONALD LANE

Ronald Lane, CBE, Professor of Occupational Health, University of Manchester, 1945-64, died on March 14 aged 97. He was born on July 2, 1897.



MANCHESTER was the first university in Britain to establish a Chair of Occupational Health. In 1945, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, the university invited Ronald Lane to create an academic centre for this newly-established medical discipline. He had made an important contribution to health and safety by preventing a serious occupational disease in a factory in south-east Lancashire and, as a consulting physician at the Salford Royal Hospital, he was the obvious choice to head this new venture in the Manchester Medical School.

Lane was educated at Simon Langton School, Canterbury. In 1915 he joined the Royal Flying Corps. He was demobilised in 1919 and went to Guy's Hospital where he held house appointments and took the MRCP.

He went into general practice in Nottingham and, by chance, became interested in industrial medicine. He applied for a post as a Medical Inspector of Factories. Because of his age and lack of experience he was not appointed but the Factory Inspectorate recommended the Chloride Electrical Storage Company to appoint him as their doctor to deal with a growing problem of lead poisoning.

Although having no training or experience in occupational medicine Lane used his clinical skills to detect early evidence of lead absorption; he set limits for lead in air and emphasised the physician's role in educating management and workers in their responsibility for health and safety. The result was dramatic. In his company, lead poisoning was virtually eliminated while remaining prevalent in other factories doing the same type of work.

During the Second World War Lane had organised training courses for factory doctors and nurses which paved the way for the creation of an academic department of Occupational Health.

His department contributed much to the knowledge of and prevention of work-related disorders, such as respiratory disease in textile workers, the long-term effects of exposure to lead and cadmium, and factors causing rheumatic disorders in coal miners

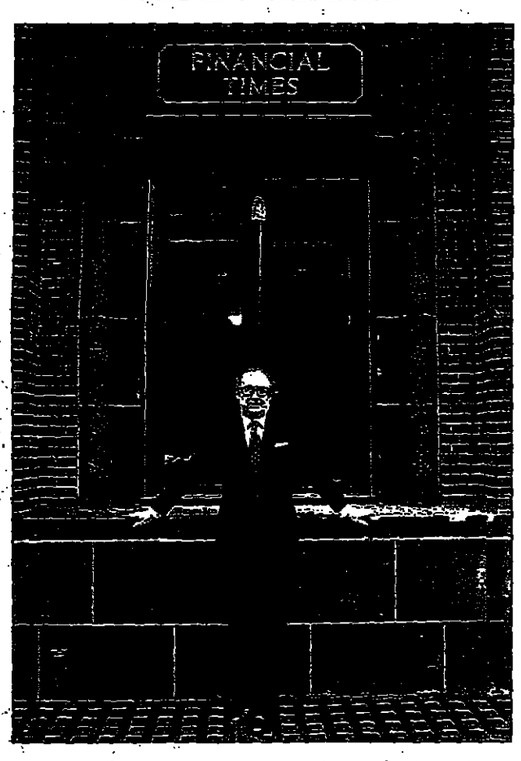
He was loved and respected by friends and colleagues who paid him an exceptional compliment by endowing, while he was alive, a lecture room in his name in the department he had created, which thrived and survived a reduced academic input into this field of medicine.

Lane served on many government committees dealing with occupational health and on international committees of the World Health Organisation and the International Labour Office. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1939 and appointed CBE in 1957.

His first wife, Winifred, died in 1981 and Ida, his second wife, in 1991. He is survived by his son.

ALAN HARE

Alan Hare, MC, chief executive of the *Financial Times*, 1975-83, and its chairman, 1978-84, died on April 10 aged 76. He was born in London on March 14, 1919.



ALAN HARE had a distinguished career in the postwar secret service which included stints in Athens and Geneva and which culminated in his appointment as head of political intelligence in London.

Then, in 1961, he left unexpectedly to join a business arm of the Pearson group. He graduated to the *Financial Times* two years later, being rapidly promoted through the management ranks. He was, indirectly, part of the Pearson family. His elder brother, Lord Blakenham, had married the daughter of Lord Cowdray, and in later years he had the novel experience of working for his own son-in-law, the 2nd Viscount Blakenham, who had married Hare's daughter.

But Hare was his own man, and it fell to him during his time as chairman and chief executive of the *Financial Times* to make one of those courageous Light Brigade charges against the print unions which decorate Fleet Street history of the period. The result, in the summer of 1983, was a 10-week strike by the *Financial Times*'s NGA printworkers which shook the paper to its foundations and resulted in losses of £6 million.

For all his virtues, Hare was not wholly equal to the task he set himself. An old Etonian with intellectual interests and an attractive, quizzical manner, he laboured, throughout these prolonged industrial tussles, under the misguided belief that others would act as reasonably as he. A colleague summed him up as "an English gentleman who goes into government because he is told his duty is to play a part in public life."

Added to this, Fleet Street in the 1970s provided a particularly unsympathetic climate for Hare's old-fashioned brand of paternalistic management. Every national newspaper had suffered from labour disputes in one form or another, and many had lost copies and issues, notably *The Times* in its year of non-publication between 1978 and 1979. The disputes at the *Financial Times* had stretched back to the early 1970s when, with the growing success of the paper in terms of circulation, the print unions had become increasingly recalcitrant.

With the retirement of Lord Drogheda in 1975 the overall strategy of the paper fell into Hare's hands, as its new chief executive. In less harsh times, he would have been perfect for the post. He was loyal, hard-working and liberal, but he was also diffident — in many ways the opposite of Drogheda — and he was the first to admit how much he loathed having to make a speech. This reticence tended to distance those working around him, and his management team suffered from a lack of leadership and cohesion as a result.

He inherited, too, a set of seemingly intractible problems, with overstaffing — the *FT* had the highest manpower costs in Fleet Street — restrictive practices and obsolete machinery pulling the paper down. Hare considered various soloutions. With Marmaduke Hussey at *The Times* he discussed the idea of combining all broadsheet production on one site, using the very latest technology.

When this, through the refusal of *The Daily Telegraph* to co-operate, came to nothing he turned his attention abroad. He launched the *Financial Times*'s European edition in Frankfurt in 1979 and, to his credit, he stuck with it through its early, considerable losses. As Hare predicted, after its initial teething problems the European edition became the cornerstone of the paper's subsequent growth.

But industrial problems persisted and in May 1983, the situation boiled over into a strike by its NGA printworkers. Hare retaliated by trying to make a deal with Sogat which would exclude the rival NGA. Subsequently he explored the possibility of a non-unionised plant in Nottingham. His tactics were widely criticised and, eventually, Pearson was forced to capitulate. The bill for the strike came to £6 million and in September that year Hare announced his retirement.

Alan Victor Hare was the fourth son of the 4th Earl of Listowel who listed his occupation as a big game hunter. His mother was a daughter of the 2nd Baron Derwent. He was born into a highly political family. His eldest brother, the 5th Earl, became a minister in a Labour Government; another brother was John Hare (later Lord Blakenham), a Tory minister and sometime chairman of the Conservative Party. Alan himself inclined, in his younger days, to the Labour side.

He was educated at Eton and New College, Oxford, and he joined the Irish Guards in September 1939. After training at Sandhurst he was commissioned in March 1940 and served in England until 1941, when he transferred into the Life Guards and saw service in Cyprus, the Levant and the Western Desert.

In 1943 he transferred into the Special Operations Executive. He served under Brigadier Davies in Albania, helping to organise the resistance. During the bitterly cold winter, he was forced to hide in a cave with the future President Hoxha, while German troops scoured the area. He lost several toes through frostbite, and was awarded the Military Cross. Later, the war took him to Ceylon and finally, as a lieutenant-colonel to Thailand where, interestingly in view of his later career, he was in charge of the Far Eastern Publicity Mission, and acted as press attaché.

After leaving the Army, Hare worked as a freelance journalist until joining the Secret Intelligence Service in 1948. He worked mostly at Headquarters in his early years but in 1953, by now a permanent member of staff, he was posted to Geneva. After a short spell at home, he was sent to Athens as head of station in 1957, and he remained there for three years.

Returning to Headquarters in 1960, he was appointed head of the political intelligence section. This was an important and conspicuous job, and Hare looked to be set fair for a successful career in the service. There was, therefore, considerable disappointment when, in 1961, he applied for voluntary retirement.

Recruited by Drogheda, he joined the *Financial Times* in 1963, after two years with a Pearson subsidiary, the Industrial and Trade Fairs. His rise through the paper's management was extraordinarily rapid: managing director in 1971 and chief executive in 1975, a post which he combined with that of chairman in 1978.

He retired as chief executive in 1983 and as chairman the following year. Despite the trials of the previous months, the *Financial Times*'s editor, Sir Geoffrey Owen, spoke warmly of his contribution to the paper, as something which could not be measured merely in business terms: "It stemmed from his understanding of the newspaper's objectives and his determination to maintain its quality and independence." Certainly he was missed by his staff at Bracken House for his gentle, unagressive charm.

Hare's reward for his years of service was a job for which he was perfectly suited, the running of the wine estate of Château Latour in the South of France, which Pearson then owned. He remained there until 1990, living with his wife Jill in a tiny chateau on the banks of the Gironde, and able to indulge his appetite for fine wines.

Numerous friends from England came to visit him — writers and fellow opera buffs among them. He had an exceptional memory for music, and he would entertain guests by singing large chunks of Noël Coward's more complicated lyrics. He combined the post with the deputy chairmanship of *The Economist* and with a directorship of the English National Opera.

Alan Hare is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter. In 1965 his daughter Marcia married the 2nd Viscount Blakenham, Hare's nephew and the chairman and chief executive of Pearson.

IAN BALLANTINE

Ian Ballantine, American paperback publisher, died at his home in Barryville, New York, on March 9 aged 79. He was born in New York on February 15, 1916.

PAPERBACK books hardly existed in the United States before Ian Ballantine arrived on the scene in 1939, complete with a suitcase full of cheap Penguin classics from Britain. After that, the publishing business in the United States was never quite the same.

Ian Keith Ballantine, the son of a Scottish actor who went to the US with a Shaw repertory company, had written a thesis on the possibilities of low-cost books in America while studying for a year at the London School of Economics. It was spotted by Allen Lane, who had established Penguin Books in 1936. Lane was intrigued by Ballantine's notion that new copyright laws would permit the importation of cheap British reprints into the American market, and he encouraged the young man to set up Penguin USA on his return to America.

For the next six years Ballantine and his wife Betty imported a series of British classics with considerable success, then branched out on their own in 1945 to establish Bantam Books.

Returning American servicemen and women, who had grown accustomed to reading paperbacks distributed during the Second World War, could now buy a wide range of titles for 25 cents instead of the two dollars then being charged for hard-cover editions.

With the help of market research techniques unknown among publishers, Ballantine had tapped an entirely new market, making his books available at a wide range of outlets instead of the conventional bookstores.

In 1952 Ballantine stunned the publishing world with an announcement that his new imprint, Ballantine Books, would begin simultaneous publication of original fiction and non-fiction in hard-cover and paperback editions. With relatively generous terms for authors, guaranteeing them a return of $5,000 within three months, he set out to nurture a whole new generation of writers who, he hoped, would be able to work full-time at their craft.

The scheme brought cries of alarm from established publishers. David Dempsey, writing in *Atlantic Monthly*, described it as "the time bomb that is ticking away beneath the foundations of the publishing industry." But the Ballantines persevered, and within a year the original plan to publish 30 titles a year had been doubled. Though many of the books were in the science fiction, fantasy, western and mystery genres, he did not hesitate to publish poetry anthologies, military histories, and other literary works.

Among the firm's authors were Ray Bradbury, Arthur C. Clarke and J. R. R. Tolkien.

Ballantine Books was sold to Random House in 1974, and the Ballantines returned to Bantam Books where they worked with such authors as Chuck Yeager and Shirley MacLaine. Ian Ballantine continued to work there until his death. He is survived by his wife and one son.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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GERMAN TIMBER FOR BRITAIN

'OPERATION WOODPECKER'

Timber from famous German forests is being used to supplement the meagre resources available for reconstruction in Britain. Men of the BAOR are getting it from areas which include the Harz Mountains under a scheme known as "Operation Woodpecker". Up to the end of last month they had sent nearly 40,000 tons — sufficient for 7,000 houses — to Hamburg for trans-shipment to this country.

The decision to augment British timber supplies from German sources was made late last year. Work was begun in severe weather, with snow and ice-covered roads. Great difficulty was found in working machines, and crews of some power-operated plant kept engines running throughout the nights to obviate starting delays in the mornings.

The amount of timber felled by March 31 was 49,096 tons, of which 37,930 tons were loaded to railhead. Great care was required in the selection of sites for operations. The areas finally selected were near Lüneberg, Celle, Fallingbostel, and Goslar (on the northern slopes of the Harz Mountains). Accommodation was immediately available at only two of the sites — Luneberg and Celle. Special arrangements were necessary to house the men at other places. At Fallingbostel they involved rehabilitation by the Royal Engineers of a German panzer unit's summer barracks which had been used to house displaced persons, who had stripped the buildings of doors, windows and fittings.

The responsibility for organizing the scheme was vested in a divisional headquarters, to which administrative and engineer staff increments were made. As telephone communications were subject to great delay, a system of wireless links were employed. The North German Timber Control allotted forestry offices for advisory duties to all felling sites, and actual work was undertaken by servicemen, who numbered 500 on every site except that of Fallingbostel, where nearly 1,000 were employed. The operations were supervised by an army troops group, RE, which included two mechanical equipment platoons for the provision and operation of machinery. Tractors and cranes were found from a reserve dump at Hanover.

ON THIS DAY

April 15, 1947

Because there was a shortage of timber in Britain it was decided to augment British supplies by felling timber in German forests.

NEW TAXIS FOR LONDON

The first batch of the 1,000 new Wolseley "Oxford" taxicabs for service in London will be delivered to their owner-drivers today. Although it retains the short wheel-base and distinctive proportions dictated by police regulations, the "Oxford" cab more closely resembles a private car than does any previous London taxicab. The interior is comfortable and well finished with Dunlopillo upholstery. A notable improvement is an indicator on the roof which lights up when the cab is for hire.

The whole cab was designed by the Nuffield Organization in 1939 but was never put into production because of the war. Since then the prototype has covered more than 100,000 miles in London traffic.

NEWS

New rules for defence lawyers

■ Lawyers will have to provide an outline of defence cases to the Crown within four weeks of receiving details of prosecution material under government proposals to curb "ambush" defences.

The Home Office is planning a far-reaching change to the criminal justice system by making it an obligation that the defence identify the issues in dispute at a trial ..... **Page 1**

Loyalist arms cache found

■ A manager at a Royal Ordnance factory in England was being questioned by police in Belfast after the discovery of what is believed to be a loyalist arms cache. Forty weapons, including sub-machine guns and rifles, were found ..... **Page 1**

Unions accused

The Labour high command went on the offensive against critics of party modernisation, accusing the leaders of unions that oppose change of being out of step with their members' views ..... **Page 2**

Passions roused

A passion play in and around Westminster Abbey that included *four-letter words and profanities* left some members of the audience in tears while others walked out in anger ..... **Page 3**

Never on Sunday

New Sunday trading laws ban large shops from opening on Easter Sunday but retailers fear that thousands of shoppers in England and Wales are unaware of the rule ..... **Page 4**

Double tragedy

A troubled marriage between a reclusive property tycoon and a wife who absorbed herself in art and spiritualism probably led to murder and then suicide... **Page 5**

Ringing the changes

Thousands of telephone engineers are preparing to make the biggest change in the service for a quarter of a century. Phoneday makes its debut on Sunday, adding a "1" to most numbers ..... **Page 8**

US arms Muslims

The Clinton Administration's goal of supplying arms to the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina has been achieved, but from Iran — which as caused intense embarrassment in Washington ..... **Page 11**

Winnie sacked

Winnie Mandela, estranged wife of the South African President, was for the second time sacked as Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology... **Page 12**

Fish talks break down

European Union ambassadors failed to resolve the fishing dispute with Canada, after emergency talks broke down over surprise Portuguese demands ..... **Page 14**

Oh, I do want to be beside the seaside

■ Easter holidaymakers created some of the biggest traffic jams for years. While resorts such as Bournemouth were hotter than Corfu, thousands who wanted to be on the beach spent most of the morning in nose-to-tail traffic ..... **Page 1**

ROBIN MAYES



S. D. Rance, left, and R. J. Kent of Woodmill Canoeing Club negotiating duckweed on the Kent and Avon canal yesterday during the Devizes to Westminster canoe marathon, due to end on Easter Monday

OPINION

Sharpened clause: The warning shots of the past few days demonstrate that Tony Blair's crusade to bring his party into line with concerns of Middle England still has far to go ..... **Page 17**

Cricket and Cantona: The start of every cricket season, with its uncompetitive encounters at Fenner's and The Parks, is but the start of an old and polished fable — without Cantonas .... **Page 17**

Overegging Easter: Easter eggs may often be garish, but only killjoys could disapprove of them ..... **Page 17**

LETTERS

Fair taxation without income tax; lessons on the Marchioness tragedy ..... **Page 17**

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: Does the escape to the country by the middle class spell death for the city? ..... **Page 16**

Charles Bremner: Political electioneering is one thing but governing France is another ..... **Page 16**

PAPERS

Timing and shrewd negotiating tactics are obviously crucial elements in any peace process. Thankfully, they are conspicuously present in the Northern Ireland peace effort

— Los Angeles Times

The common assumption is that Burundi represents a humanitarian crisis, not a geopolitical event whose outcome Washington has an interest in shaping

— The Washington Post

BUSINESS

Japan: Japan cut its official interest rate to 1 per cent as part of emergency economic measures ..... **Page 21**

Economy: American industrial production fell in March, strong evidence that the US recovery is beginning to slow ..... **Page 21**

Easter eggs: Cadbury-Schweppes and Nestlé are battling it out in the Easter Egg wars ..... **Page 21**

Virtually: Nationwide Building Society's first virtual reality branch has proved so popular that the society is to extend it ..... **Page 21**

OBITUARIES

Burl Ives, folk singer and actor; **Ian Ballantine**, paperback publisher ..... **Page 19**

SPORT

Football: Manchester City's 2-1 win over Liverpool eased fears of relegation. Crystal Palace's attempts to move out of the bottom four were foiled by an 87th minute equaliser for Tottenham at Selhurst Park ..... **Page 40**

Rugby League: Wigan won the Stones Bitter championship for the sixth successive season by beating St Helens 34-18 at Central Park **Page 40**

Cricket: Australia have a good chance to become the first team to win a Test series in the West Indies for 15 years ..... **Page 37**

RACING

The Bentley boys: A revival meeting with a difference is hoping to presserve a British racing legend ..... **Page 1**

MAGAZINE



The Princess and the pilot: Joanna Pitman meets Group Captain Peter Townsend who in another life loved and lost Princess Margaret ... **Page 24**

Red star: Activist or actress? Alan Franks finds unity in the divided world of Vanessa Redgrave ..... **Page 8**

Cult TV: The Vulture continues his look back through the golden age of television with numbers 51-75 of those immortal classics of the small screen ..... **Page 18**

Floating on air: Iain R. Webb gets scent of the latest summer fragrances ..... **Page 30**

House style special: 36 pages of new looks from the past for your home ..... **Page 35**

WEEKEND



Cover story: Joseph Connolly asks whether DNA can bring back the dodo ..... **Pages L-3**

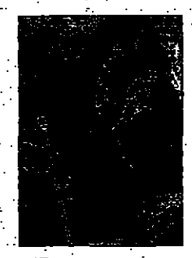
Better heard than seen: The National Theatre's new staging of Dylan Thomas's radio play *Under Milk Wood* leaves Benedict Nightingale doubting the quality of the original work ..... **Page 5**

New on record: A tantalising operatic gem, an unmissable collection of classics, overdue exposure for a jazz pianist, and flattery for Led Zeppelin ..... **Page 7**

Nationwide guide: Where to take the children at Easter ..... **Page 15**

Travel: Venice, the South Pacific ..... **Pages 14-17**

VISION



Wilde night: the life and loves of Oscar Wilde ..... **page 2**

Children's hours: parent's guide to viewing ..... **Page 3**

Rhett returns: *Gone with the Wind*, and other films of the week ..... **Page 4**

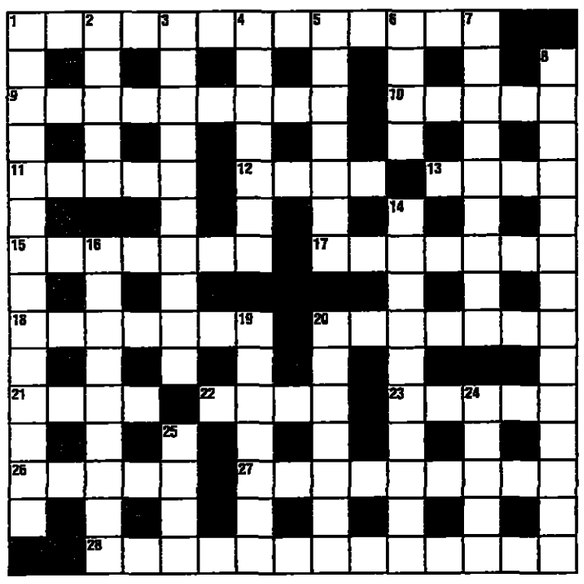
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Name/Address .....

.....



ACROSS

1 Tests as much as possible in this state (13)
9 Cut flower found frequently in this part of Ireland (9)
10 Novel left here, female too? (5)
11 Expression of surprise produced by putting port round to the right (5)
12 God of love and peace? Just the opposite (4)
13 It's clear this way isn't rough (4)
15 Point needed to beat club (7)
17 Preference for flower? It's found in a wood (7)
18 Morse ate them with chips (7)
20 Blessing man with one child (7)
21 Reduce fare in legislative assembly (4)
22 One fine day, for example, a breeze returned (4)
23 Fourth of sausage taken away for this stew (5)
26 Ready for wild animal (5)
27 Rum and ale round bar, as found in *The Bull* (9)
28 Author and film director angered university (4,5,4)

DOWN

1 Instructions to infantry given when firing (8,6)
2 Some of this is all right for a rope-maker (5)
3 Expressed regret for article composed about diary (10)
4 Audibly draw attention to security measure for dangerous drug (7)
5 Star's initial appearance in paper, on the way up (7)
6 Conclusions reached by pundit who talks such rubbish! (4)
7 Outlines for players how to get scores in a twinkling (9)
8 Previously referred to a note I'd composed about supervisors (14)
14 Understanding point on case, get evidence from here (7,3)
16 Scholar's assistance in not very outstanding work (3-6)
19 A crass piece of mockery, possibly (7)
20 Stigmatized playboy? (7)
24 Slowly scored fifty runs without a drive (5)
25 Power of two oarsmen (4)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,824

V	I	S	I	T		D	O	W	N	R	I	G	H	T
I		C		H		I		E		A		E		E
C	L	O	S	E	C	A	L	L		T	U	L	I	P
A		R		B		L		L		T		I		I
R	A	N	K	L	E		P	I	L	L	A	G	E	D
I		L		U		N		E		N				
O	N	T	H	E	S	P	R	E	E		T	I	E	D
U		U		S		I		V		S		T		E
S	O	R	E		I	N	V	E	S	T	M	E	N	T
		N		C		T		R				E		
O	U	T	R	I	G	H	T		B	A	R	B	E	R
R		A		N		E		P		D		U		R
B	I	B	L	E		A	B	U	N	D	A	N	C	E
I		L		M		I		S		L		C		N
T	H	E	S	A	U	R	U	S		E	B	O	A	T

Solution to Puzzle No 19,829

H	A	R	I	C	O	T		L	E	G	R	O	O	M
O		E		L		O		I		N		U		A
N	O	T	R	E	D	A	M	E		A	L	T	E	R
E		O		O		S				S		W		K
S	T	U	M	P		T	O	U	C	H	W	O	O	D
T		C		A		M		N		R		O		
	W	H	A	T	M	A	I	S	I	E	K	N	E	W
A		R		S		H		X				N		
C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R		A	C	T	O	R
I		S		E		I		A		U		S		
D	E	C	A	M	E	R	O	N		L	I	T	H	E
R		R		A			K		I		F		N	
A	P	I	A	N		T	A	I	L	B	O	A	R	D
I		B		E		O		N		U		L		E
N	O	E	N	T	R	Y		G	A	R	B	L	E	D

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *J E Green, Horsham, W Sussex; V Logan, Maryhill Rd, Glasgow; E Fitzsimmons, Teddington, Middx; M R Bickmore, Highcliffe, Dorset; R J Hunt, Wartingham, Surrey.*

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Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Heralds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

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M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
6.06 am	7.57 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
5.55 am	8.17 pm

Full moon today

London 7.57 pm to 6.04 am
Bristol 8.06 pm to 6.14 am
Edinburgh 8.19 pm to 6.06 am
Manchester 8.09 pm to 5.58 am
Penzance 8.15 pm to 6.28 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
6.04 am	7.58 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
6.28 am	9.37 pm

Last quarter April 22

London 7.58 pm to 6.02 am
Bristol 8.08 pm to 6.12 am
Edinburgh 8.21 pm to 6.04 am
Manchester 8.11 pm to 6.06 am
Penzance 8.17 pm to 6.26 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	1.13	7.02	1.43	7.24
Aberdeen	0.56	4.20	1.07	4.38
Avonmouth	6.50	13.48	7.13	13.72
Belfast	10.35	3.51	10.53	3.38
Cardiff	6.43	12.11	7.09	12.22
Devonport	5.27	5.48	5.51	5.45
Dover	10.31	5.63	10.53	6.82
Dublin	11.14	4.17	11.29	4.13
Falmouth	4.37	5.26	4.58	5.25
Glasgow	0.31	4.42	10.16	3.89
Harwich	11.38	4.03	11.56	4.05
Holyhead	9.52	5.73	10.14	5.73
Hull	5.53	7.44	6.12	7.75
Ilfracombe	5.35	9.38	5.59	9.57
King's Lynn	5.52	6.72	6.09	7.06
Leith	2.04	5.56	2.26	5.76
Liverpool	10.54	9.72	11.16	9.75
Lowestoft	9.19	2.48	9.19	2.57
Margate	11.54	4.83	–	–
Milford Haven	5.45	7.16	6.08	7.22
Newquay	4.39	6.99	4.59	7.04
Oban	5.21	4.01	5.42	3.96
Penzance	4.16	6.80	4.38	6.54
Portland	8.30	2.14	8.59	2.16
Portsmouth	11.00	4.68	11.23	4.83
Shoreham	10.52	6.29	11.15	6.48
Southampton	10.25	4.65	10.47	4.79
Swansea	5.56	9.69	6.19	9.79
Tees	3.39	5.43	3.26	5.53
Witton-on-Nze	11.23	2.41	11.46	2.55

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp, Strathallan, Tayside, 19C (66F); lowest day max, Cape Wrath Highland, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Stornoway, Hebrides, 0.06in; highest sunshine: Kinloss, Moray Firth, and Hayling Island, Hants 13.3hr

FORECAST

General: northern Scotland should be mainly dry and, at times, sunny, although the northwest will have a little rain in the evening.

Southern Scotland, Northern Ireland, northern England and North Wales will dawn cloudy with a little light rain or drizzle. During the morning the weather will brighten, with some sunshine.

South Wales, with central and southern England, should stay mostly dry and have some sunshine, particularly later in the afternoon. However, Lincolnshire, East Anglia and Kent will have a little showery rain.

London, Central S, SW England, Channel Isles: dry. A lot of cloud. Some sunshine, especially later. Wind light northerly. Cooler. Max 14C (57F).

SE, E England, E Anglia: cloudy. A little showery rain. Some sunshine, especially later. Wind moderate northerly. Cooler. Max 12C (54F).

Midlands, S Wales, Cent N England: cloudy for a while. Mainly dry. Brighter in the afternoon. Wind light northerly. Much cooler. Max 12C (54F).

N Wales, NW; NE England, Lakes, IoM, Borders, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: a little morning rain, then brightening with some sunshine. Wind light north or north-westerly. Cooler. Max 12C (54F).

Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Shetland: sunny at times. Chance of a shower. Wind brisk northwesterly. Chilly. Max 7C-10C (45F-50F).

NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney: some sunshine. Clouding over later, with a little evening rain. Wind moderate northwesterly. Cool. Max 10C (50F).

Outlook: many places will start bright tomorrow, but it will cloud over with a little rain. Some rain on Monday too, especially in the north.

ABROAD (yesterday)

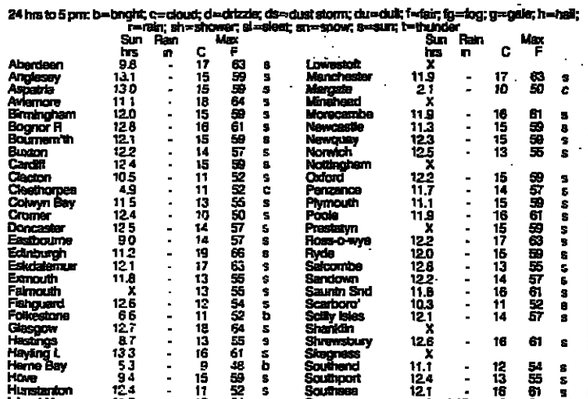
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	9.8	-	17	63	s	Lowestoft	X				
Anglesey	13.1	-	15	59	s	Manchester	11.9	-	17	63	s
Aspatria	13.0	-	15	59	s	Margate	2.1	-	10	50	c
Aviemore	11.1	-	18	64	s	Minehead	X				
Birmingham	12.0	-	15	59	s	Morecambe	11.9	-	16	61	s
Bognor R	12.8	-	16	61	s	Newcastle	11.3	-	15	59	s
Bournem'th	12.1	-	15	59	s	Newquay	12.3	-	15	59	s
Buxton	12.2	-	14	57	s	Norwich	12.5	-	13	55	s
Cardiff	12.4	-	15	59	s	Nottingham	X				
Clacton	10.5	-	11	52	s	Oxford	12.2	-	15	59	s
Cleethorpes	4.9	-	11	52	c	Penzance	11.7	-	14	57	s
Colwyn Bay	11.5	-	13	55	s	Plymouth	11.1	-	15	59	s
Cromer	12.4	-	10	50	s	Poole	11.9	-	16	61	s
Doncaster	12.5	-	14	57	s	Prestatyn	X		15	59	s
Eastbourne	9.0	-	14	57	s	Ross-o-wye	12.2	-	17	63	s
Edinburgh	11.2	-	19	66	s	Ryde	12.0	-	16	59	s
Eskdalemuir	12.1	-	17	63	s	Salcombe	12.6	-	13	55	s
Exmouth	11.8	-	13	55	s	Sandown	12.2	-	14	57	s
Falmouth	X	-	13	55	s	Saunton Snd	11.8	-	16	61	s
Flamguard	12.6	-	12	54	s	Scarboro'	10.3	-	11	52	s
Folkestone	6.6	-	11	52	b	Scilly Isles	12.1	-	14	57	s
Glasgow	12.7	-	18	64	s	Shanklin	X				
Hastings	8.7	-	13	55	s	Shrewsbury	12.6	-	16	61	s
Hayling I.	13.3	-	16	61	s	Skegness	X				
Herne Bay	5.3	-	9	48	b	Southend	11.1	-	12	54	s
Hove	9.4	-	15	59	s	Southport	12.4	-	13	55	s
Hunstanton	12.4	-	11	52	s	Southsea	12.1	-	16	61	s
Isle of Man	11.8	-	12	54	s	Stornoway	1.2	0.07	12	54	sh
Jersey	4.3	-	12	54	c	Swanage	X				
Kinloss	13.3	-	15	59	s	Teignmouth	12.4	-	13	55	s
Leeds	12.6	-	16	61	s	Tenby	12.7	-	13	55	s
Lerwick	5.6	0.05	10	50	b	Tiree	8.6	-	12	54	sh
Leuchars	9.2	-	18	64	s	Torquay	12.3	-	13	55	s
Littlehmpton	12.2	-	15	59	s	Ventnor	12.0	-	15	59	s
Liverpool	12.5	-	15	59	s	Weymouth	12.4	-	13	55	s
London	11.5	-	15	59	s	These are Thursday's figures					

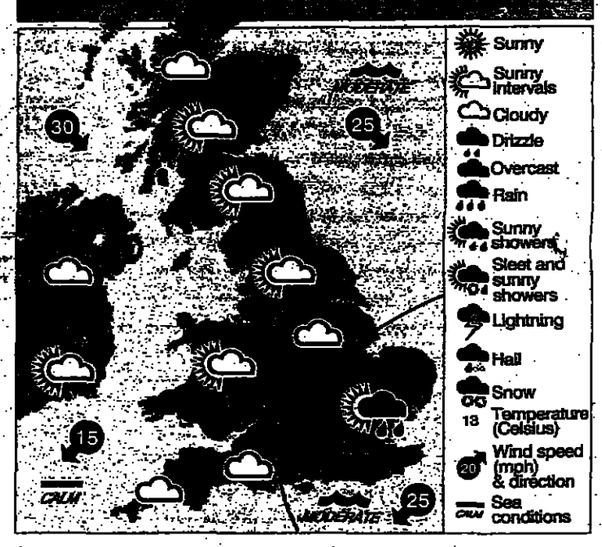
ABROAD

Ajaccio	15	59	f	Corfu	17	63	s	Majorca	19	66	s	Salzburg	4	39	sl
Alicatti	19	66	s	Dublin	16	61	s	Malaga	30	86	c	S Friaco	13	55	c
Alex'dria	21	70	f	Dubrovnik	14	57	s	Malta	17	63	s	Santiago	18	64	c
Algiers	21	70	f	Faro	21	70	f	Melb'rne	18	64	s	S Paulo	19	66	c
Amst'dm	12	54	c	Florence	7	45	f	Mexico C	23	73	s	Seoul	22	72	s
Athens	17	63	c	Frankfurt	11	52	s	Miami	29	84	f	Sing'por	29	84	t
Bahrain	28	82	s	Funchal	19	66	f	Milan	15	59	c	St'kholm	11	52	s
Bangkok	35	95	f	Geneva	10	50	s	Montreal	9	48	s	Strasb'rg	11	52	s
Barbados	29	84	s	Gibraltar	19	66	f	Moscow	4	39	c	Sydney	17	63	c
Barcelona	17	63	s	Helsinki	6	43	s	Munich	12	54	s	Tangier	21	70	f
Beirut	19	66	f	Hong K	28	79	f	Naples	10	50	r	Tel Aviv	19	66	f
Belgrade	7	45	c	Innsbrck	6	43	c	N Delhi	32	90	f	Tenerife	22	72	f
Berlin	12	54	s	Istanbul	15	59	s	N York	14	57	f	Tokyo	13	55	r
Bermuda	22	72	f	Jeddah	31	88	s	Nice	15	59	c	Toronto	9	48	c
Biarritz	12	54	c	Jo'burg	20	68	f	Oslo	11	52	f	Tunis	19	66	f
Borda'x	16	61	c	Karachi	32	90	s	Paris	12	54	t	Valencia	19	66	f
Brussels	9	48	c	L Palmas	23	73	f	Peking	17	63	c	Vanc'ver	9	48	c
Budapst	6	43	c	La Tquet	13	55	f	Perth	21	70	r	Venice	15	59	s
B Aires	20	68	s	Lisbon	22	72	s	Prague	3	37	r	Vienna	7	45	c
Cairo	31	88	s	Locarno	13	55	s	Reykjavik	3	37	c	Warsaw	12	54	t
Chicago	12	54	s	L Angels	17	63	s	Rhodes	17	63	s	Wash'ton	15	59	t
Ch'church	12	54	-	Lucerne	11	52	s	Rio de J	25	77	f	Wel'ngton	16	61	s
Cologne	13	55	s	Luxor	33	91	s	Riyadh	31	88	s	Zurich	9	48	t
C'phagn	7	45	s	Madrid	18	64	f	Rome	9	48	t				

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: low F will move towards southern Scandinavia and deepen as high K drifts west and declines. Low B will move north, then east, with little change of central pressure



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WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES
Page 33

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY APRIL 15 1995

USAir audit casts doubt on value of BA stake

BY MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

BRITISH AIRWAYS has been pushed further towards writing-down its 24.6 per cent stake in USAir after the troubled American carrier's own auditors cast doubt on whether it can continue in business.

KPMG Peat Marwick LLP has told USAir shareholders, in a note attached to the company's annual report filed to the US Securities and Exchange Commission, that there was "substantial doubt" the airline could continue as a going concern.

BA bought its holding in USAir in January 1993 for $300 million as part of its drive to become a global carrier. But USAir's continuing woes have brought into question the value of the holding, currently in the books at £261 million.

Earlier this year Sir Colin Marshall, BA's chairman, repeated warnings that a write-down might eventually be needed, despite apparent progress with vital restructuring talks between USAir and its pilots.

USAir won tentative agreement from its pilots' union last month to accept substantial wage concessions, paving the way for similar deals with its other unions. The airline is trying to cut $1 billion a year from its costs with half coming from labour concessions and half from management.

KPMG, which is required under accountancy law to take a view on its clients' financial standing, has said USAir had recurring losses from operations and has a net capital deficiency. Both the US airline and BA, however, defended the position.

BA said yesterday: "USAir has in place management action which will save $350 million in the current year. It has also said it will have $400 million of cash at the end of the first quarter, at the end of March, the most difficult trading quarter for any airline." BA added that it was confident that USAir could carry on as a going concern.

BA's decision to hold the line against write-downs was further weakened last month when Warren Buffett, the highly-respected US investor and another big holder of USAir stock, wrote down the value of his own investment by $268.5 million to $89.5 million and said he was leaving the USAir board.

Mr Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway investment vehicle said the write-down reflected an "other than temporary" fall in the value of the shares, implying no early solution to USAir's problems was envisaged.

BA said: "We will only consider a write-down if and when the board considers there has been a permanent diminution in our investment."

BA, whose 1994-95 financial year has just ended, expects the alliance with USAir to bring in an extra $100 million in benefits that year, from cost savings, higher revenues and code-sharing. The company insists that while Mr Buffett's holding was a pure investment, its own has additional value as it is part of a wider partnership.

The deal with the pilots late last month is thought to have offered them a 20 per cent pay cut in exchange for seats on the board and profit-sharing. However, BA is believed to be opposed to employee representation on USAir's board.

If the unions do not eventually agree to cost-cutting, the airline could be forced into Chapter 11 receivership, making action by BA on its stake inevitable.

Japan cuts rate to record low of 1%

BY GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO AND JANET BUSH

JAPAN yesterday cut its official discount rate to 1 per cent, its lowest level ever, and said it will deliver an extra budget this year to stimulate the economy. However, the heavily trailed package left the financial markets unimpressed.

The dollar bounced to Y84 briefly but profit taking set it in and the Bank of Japan was forced to intervene just below that level in an attempt to solidify what was only a minor positive reaction to the economic package. Most major currency markets were closed for Good Friday.

On the Tokyo stock market, the Nikkei share average closed down 390.90 points, or 2.38 per cent, at 16,047.89. Japanese government bond futures, however, surged to end at a 15-month high.

The measures are unlikely to help reverse the yen's 20 per cent surge against the dollar this year, a rise that is seriously damaging the performance of the Japanese economy. With US markets closed yesterday, a negative reaction is expected on Monday when currency dealers believe the dollar could fall to new lows.

Japan's actions fell short of expectations in both tactics and substance. Mark Cliffe, chief international economist at HSBC-Markets in London, said: "The essential problem is that they have been talking about this for so long that they have lost any impact. The pressure is still on."

He drew a comparison with the Bundesbank, which cut interest rates just over a week ago, taking markets completely by surprise and achieving some success in preventing the mark from rising any further.

A dealer at a major commercial bank in Tokyo dismissed the Japanese package, saying: "Basically, the package contains nothing that will have an immediate effect on reducing Japan's current account surplus."

The 0.75 per cent cut in the official discount rate to 1 per cent was expected and some analysts were disappointed that a bolder move had not been agreed. Some had hoped for extra measures to drive Japanese money market rates lower. On fiscal measures, analysts had hoped for a quantified package of spending and tax moves worth at least 1 per cent of Japanese gross domestic product. But yesterday's package consisted of a promise for an extra budget with no figure put on it.

The biggest disappointment was Japan's failure to announce a firm target for cutting its current account surplus. Because of infighting within the ruling coalition, a proposal to "halve Japan's annual trade surplus to the order of 13 trillion yen over the next five years" was omitted.

Many analysts also criticised the vaguely worded promises of loan subsidies for small and medium-sized companies, increased public works spending and a speeded-up deregulation programme.

One key measure called for the five-year deregulation plan proposed in late March to be brought forward by two years. But Noboyuki Saji, analyst at the Nikko Research Centre, said that the list of more than 1,000 proposed deregulatory steps were insubstantial and were not likely to lead to more open Japanese markets.

The only positive sign that Japan is serious about trying to stimulate the economy was its proposal to use deficit bonds to front-load its public works spending plan. Deficit financing has met strong resistance from Japan's financial bureaucrats and this was taken yesterday as a sign that the Government is trying to portray a new political will.

Underlining the problems that remain, Japan's Finance Ministry yesterday said that Japan's trade surplus with America widened to $55.66 billion in the 1994-1995 fiscal year from $51.12 billion the previous year.

MARC ASPLAND



Laura Barker, eight, from Crawley, West Sussex, with an Easter haul at Selfridges

Victory is sweet in egg war

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

The confectioners Cadbury-Schweppes and Nestlé are battling it out in the all-important Easter egg war, now worth hundreds of millions of pounds.

Last year, Britain's chocoholics spent £226 million on Easter eggs, 25 per cent more than four years ago. Cadbury says that it is one of the fastest-growing sectors in the chocolate industry, expanding rapidly through new products.

In the past, Cadbury has dominated the Easter egg industry. Last year, it accounted for just over half of sales, with Nestlé a close second and Mars a distant third. Mars was a late entrant to the market, launching its first egg in 1987. Cadbury introduced its first egg in 1875.

Cadbury has the top sellers in both shell eggs and filled eggs, with Cadbury's Buttons the favourite shell egg, and Cadbury's Creme Eggs dominating the filled egg sector despite new competition from Mars and Rolo, owned by Nestlé. Cadbury sells 300 million Creme Eggs a year.

Selfridges, the London department store, had handled more than 50,000 Easter product sales before Good Friday.

Consumers still favour traditional boxed eggs over filled eggs or novelty products. Last year, £144 million was spent on 80 million boxed eggs — enough to stretch from London to Sydney and back.

US output declines in March

BY OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN industrial production fell in March for the first time in six months, strong evidence that the US recovery is beginning to slow to more sustainable levels in reaction to successive increases in interest rates.

The news helped the dollar to modest gains against the mark but it continued to slip against the yen, despite news of a Japanese discount rate cut and promises of new efforts to stimulate the economy.

The US Federal Reserve said industrial production fell by 0.3 per cent, and the rise of 0.5 per cent previously reported for February was revised down to only 0.1 per cent.

Backing up these figures was news that capacity utilisation fell to 84.9 in March and the usage rate previously reported for February was revised down to 85.4 from 85.7. Capacity usage, a key indicator of how much slack is in the economy as a protection against inflation, have fallen for two months running for the first time since May, 1993.

The news supports Fed chairman Alan Greenspan's recent claim that the economy would slow in the spring from the "torrid" growth of the fourth quarter of last year.

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Pressing ahead with push button loans

BY LIZ DOLAN



Good reception: an on-screen welcome awaits you

IMAGINE you are strolling through the doors of a branch of the Nationwide Building Society. You walk over the reception desk. The receptionist directs you to the customer lounge, where you flick through details of a few products and, after a chat with an adviser, apply for a mortgage, or open a savings account.

As experiences go, it may not be the most thrilling. But this branch has a feature that singles it out. It does not exist.

Nationwide's first virtual reality branch, opened in its Eastleigh branch last year, has proved so popular that the society is planning to extend it to seven branches in the Southampton area over the next few weeks. The system, called Interact, is accessed via a screen and uses a mixture of video tape, photographs, voice and text to simulate events in a real branch. The touch-screen mechanism also allows users to speak to an adviser through the video telephone link.

The greatest attractions are, apparently, the entertainment value and the potential for embarrassment limitation. Nationwide says people like the fact that they can ask basic questions like "what is a mortgage?" without feeling stupid.

Meanwhile, at National Westminster Bank, a virtual reality retailing empire is under construction. "We're much further down the superhighway than they are," says a spokesman proudly. "We've got an Electronic Shopping Mall."

This turns out to be more like the high-tech equivalent of a small village high street, involving as it does just two "shops". NatWest and Thomas Cook. It is reached through a touch-screen multi-media system and is available at three NatWest branches, in Ealing, Kingston and Maidstone, plus Thomas Cook branches in Putney, Cheapside and Marble Arch in London. More are planned.

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ABN Amro aims to expand London business

BY PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ABN Amro, the Dutch banking group, is searching for ways to build up its London investment banking businesses after losing the battle to buy parts of Barings to rival ING.

The group has appointed Robert Kyprianou to build up a new institutional asset management business. Mr Kyprianou, recruited from Salomon Brothers a month ago as managing director of ABN Amro Asset Management UK Limited, hopes to start offering services to institutional clients in two to three months time.

An ABN Amro spokesman also confirmed that the bank was seeking to build up its ABN Amro Hoare Govett stockbroking operation and its ABN Amro Securities businesses in London and he did not rule out an acquisition this year.

The bank said it would be "interested in acquiring in the UK in the field of asset management". And its spokesman added that the bank's corporate finance activity in London "will grow faster than in Holland".

Last week, ABN Amro said it was expanding its European investment banking operation with the $136.4 million acquisition of Alfred Berg, a Nordic investment bank, from Volvo of Sweden. Alfred Berg specialises in equity and bond trading, corporate finance, asset management and research.

The bank is also taking a look at Govett's fund management businesses, put up for sale earlier this month. It is understood to have been in the running for Jupiter Tyndall, which was snapped up by Commerzbank last month.

Mr Kyprianou said market volatility had given fund managers a hard time recently and he planned to offer a "relative value strategy".

Initially the new operation will offer fixed income and discretionary management products, offering what he called a "market neutral" approach. He said: "It is easier to make a statement that the German yield curve is too steep than that the Bundesbank will cut rates again."

The ABN Amro spokesman said that a Deutshe Bank-style decision to base investment banking in London was unlikely, as "it would undermine Amsterdam as a financial centre". He said: "We will keep using Amsterdam for its strength but for a pan-European equity strategy you need to be in London." He predicted "a gradual moving of some departments to London", which he described as "a shifting of emphasis".

BAe gives Arlington a capital injection

BY CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH AEROSPACE has injected £160 million of equity capital into its property development subsidiary, Arlington Securities, a move which has increased speculation that the defence group is considering a flotation of the company. Arlington has over £300 million of property under development and is widely known as the premier business park developer in Britain.

The boost to the balance sheet was made quietly at the end of last year when BAe subscribed for an additional £160 million of shares in the property subsidiary. Described in Arlington's 1994 accounts as a demonstration of confidence, the capital injection took the form of a debt-for equity swap.

Arlington's balance sheet has been transformed by the new share capital which increases net assets from £56 million to £221 million and would give an independent Arlington more freedom to develop. The company is also financed with interest-free loans from BAe.

BAe, which last November raised £178 million in a rights issue to fund its bid for submarine maker VSEL, also appears to have increased its lending to Arlington. The property group's accounts show that long term loans due to BAe increased from £142 million in December 1993 to £211 million at the end of 1994. The £211 million loan from BAe bears no interest and its repayment is linked to certain developments.

In March, British Aerospace reiterated its commitment to the business stating there was "a clear role for property of realising cash from surplus land assets". Heavy expenditure on development last year cost Arlington some £68 million leading to a cash outflow of £82 million compared to the previous year's inflow of £28 million.

The property group's strength is some 3,000 acres of land belonging to BAe which is being progressively developed, let and sold with the proceeds used by BAe to finance its aerospace activities. In 1994, Arlington paid £3.5 million in dividends to BAe from profits of £6 million.

The company completed the first buildings at its Oxford Business Park, a development on 105 acres of land at Cowley, once occupied by the Rover car works, and in October the group acquired BAe's military aircraft site in Preston and sold some of the land to a residential developer. Recently the company set up a £17 million joint venture with First Leisure to develop marinas.

The notion of turning surplus land into cash was the carrot that tempted BAe in its original £278 million bid for Arlington at the top of the property boom in 1989.

Arlington was originally founded by entrepreneurs Raymond Mould and Patrick Vaughan who are now heading the recently floated Pillar Property Investments.



The biology pilot plant at Glaxo Wellcome Medicine Research Centre at Stevenage, enables yeast and mammalian cells to be cultured. The £700 million centre employs 1,500 and is the UK's largest single investment in science

Labatt in takeover spotlight

A CANADIAN investment group says it may bid for John Labatt, the Canadian brewer that owns more than 500 pubs in Britain and sponsors Nottingham Forest football club (Eric Reguly writes).

Onex Corporation said Labatt is one of several targets it is considering. In a statement, it said no decision had been made to proceed with any transaction "at this time".

The statement was issued in response to a request from the Toronto Stock Exchange to explain the recent rise in Labatt shares from about C$19 to C$23. Labatt's price tag would be about C$2.5 billion (£1.1 billion).

The company, Canada's second largest brewer, has many assets that could be sold off. It owns the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team, the TSN television sports network, 22 per cent of Femsa Cerveza, a Mexican brewer, and Birra Morretti, Italy's fourth largest beer company.

EBRD in nuclear plant move

BY OUR CITY STAFF

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has taken the first concrete step towards abandoning its controversial DM1.45 billion Slovak nuclear plant scheme, with an appeal for proposals on non-nuclear options.

Ron Freeman, the EBRD vice-president, this week asked a number of non-governmental organisations, including Greenpeace, to put forward non-nuclear alternatives to the project, which currently forsees completion with western technology.

Electricité de France (EdF), the state-owned French power group which was to have been main contractor, as well as an equity partner and joint operator of the Slovak plant, will be the biggest casualty if the plan is aborted.

Thursday's announcement that Ukraine has agreed to close down the Chernobyl power plant if western finance was available, is likely to increase the pressure on the Slovaks to choose a non-nuclear alternative.

Paris appeal court upholds ban on Suard

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

PIERRE SUARD, chairman of the French telecommunications and engineering group Alcatel Alsthom and one of his country's most influential corporate leaders, appeared almost certain to be forced to resign after a Paris court yesterday upheld a ban on him running his company.

The Alcatel board is scheduled to meet immediately after the Easter holiday, next Tuesday, to decide on M Suard's future in the company.

Despite the board's backing so far for M Suard, it has been made clear that he would not be able to continue as chairman if the present temporary ban, imposed last month, is upheld until a formal investigation into alleged corruption is completed.

The Accusation Chamber of the Paris Appeal Court ruled that bail conditions set on March 10 by an investigating magistrate in connection with alleged large-scale over-billing of Alcatel clients, would remain as they were. M Suard, who has not yet been charged had sought to have the ban overturned.

The bail conditions, which prevent M Suard from involvement with Alcatel, have made it impossible for him to function as chief executive and caused a management crisis at the company. The board is expected to resolve it by appointing Mark Vienot, chairman of banking group Société Générale, as his successor on an interim basis.

The allegations against M Suard also concern work done at the company's expense on his private home in Versailles.

M Suard's lawyer said the court yesterday partially modified the restrictions imposed upon him, but that he was still unable to carry out his functions as chief executive officer. The lawyer said M Suard will, however, have the right to travel and meet most of the employees and managers of Alcatel.

Glaxo calls for research efficiency

BY SARAH BAGNALL

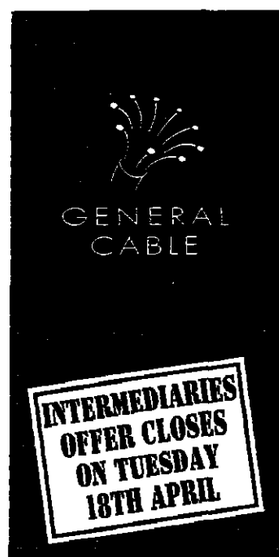
GLAXO, Britain's leading drugs group, says it needs to increase research productivity by up to four times to survive in the harsh environment facing the drugs industry.

Dr James Niedel, group research and development director, said this week pharmaceutical companies were under extreme pricing pressures around the world as drugs bills were being scrutinised by insurers, governments, employers and patients. "They are all demanding greater value from health care," he said.

He added that there is also a lower reward for innovation. The number of $1 billion drugs was on the decline as was the period during which a new drug had the market exclusively to itself.

It is now only 18 months to 24 months before the competition moves in, whereas it used to be five to six years, he said.

Dr Niedel said the takeover of Wellcome and the £700m new research facility at Stevenage were aimed at increasing research productivity.



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GENERAL CABLE PLC

Flotation of gold mine is due to raise $450m

BY COLIN CAMPBELL
MINING CORRESPONDENT

LIHIR Gold, which promises to be one of the world's richest gold mines with a life of at least 37 years, is expected to float on world stock markets this year after an international share offer, scheduled for autumn, to raise $450 million.

The Lihir gold project, currently 40 per cent owned by RTZ, 30 per cent by its discoverer, Niugini Mining, and 30 per cent by the Papua New Guinea Government, is the centrepiece of a $750 million fund-raising exercise, of which $450 million would come from institutional and private investors, *with the balance as* debt finance from banks.

Negotiations are in progress with five international banks, led by Union Bank of Switzerland. Meanwhile, J.B. Were and Son, the Australian stockbroker, and Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank, have been appointed global coordinator and international coordinator, respectively, of the proposed $450 *million share offer.*

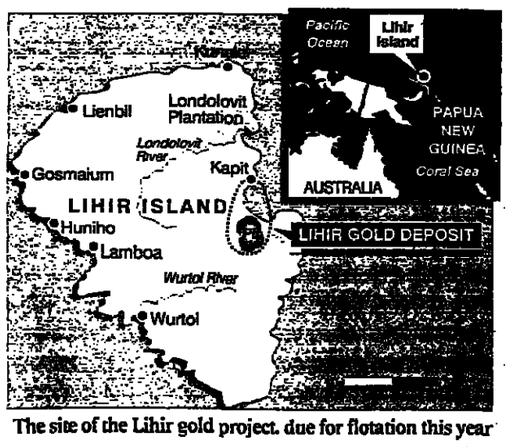
Geoff Loudon, Niugini chairman and the driving force behind the project ever since Niugini discovered Lihir in 1982, says that the all-important Landowners Agreement covering the rights of local people and their financial interest that will flow from Lihir's development, is to be signed on the island of Lihir on April 20.

"Once the agreement is signed, there is nothing to stop Lihir from rolling like a *train," Mr Loudon said.*

Lihir will be managed and operated by RTZ, which, Mr Loudon says, "brings unrivalled skills to the project".

Mechanics of floating Lihir Gold are still being worked out, but Mr Loudon feels that it would be "natural justice" for Niugini shareholders to have preferential rights. Lihir Gold will initially be listed on Australia's stock exchanges. Quotations in London and, perhaps, North America are being considered.

Geologists say that Lihir holds an estimated 42.5 million ounces of gold, making it one of the most significant undeveloped gold projects outside South Africa.



The site of the Lihir gold project, due for flotation this year

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Iacocca attacks Eaton's record

LEE IACOCCA, the former Chrysler chairman who would put $50 million into Kirk Kerkorian's $22.8 billion proposed buyout of the carmaker, says his successor, Robert J Eaton, has not moved fast enough to solve Chrysler's quality problems. "I hired him to do quality [improvements]," Mr Iacocca said in an interview with *USA Today*. "He's addressing it, although he got on it more slowly than he could have." Mr Iacocca lured Mr Eaton away from General Motors three years ago to succeed him at the helm of the third-largest US carmaker. Mr Iacocca retired as chairman at the end of 1992 and left the Chrysler board in 1993. He told the newspaper that recalls and other quality problems in the past year have put Mr Eaton "on the spot".

However, Chrysler's vice-president, Arthur Liebler, said the company's performance under Mr Eaton spoke for itself. Chrysler had record profits last year, is the most efficient carmaker, and it has $7.3 billion in cash to protect operations during the next recession. "We're shocked and we're disappointed that Mr Iacocca has chosen to engage in such an attack," Mr Liebler said.

Bic looks to expand

BIC, the cash-rich French maker of disposable lighters, razors and writing implements, has plans to diversify into a fourth sector. In an interview in *Le Journal des Finances*, Bruno Bich, chairman, said the group has a net available war chest of some Ffr2.2 billion (£283 million) and would consider making an acquisition. Bic also plans to develop in eastern Europe and Asia. M Bich warned of a difficult year ahead because of a lower dollar and high plastic prices. "A 10 centimes fluctuation in the value of the dollar against the franc has an impact of $1 million on the accounts of our US unit Bic Corp," he said. Bic net profit before exceptionals rose 34 per cent in 1994 to Ffr 580 million.

Pacific Dunlop sale

BRITAIN'S biggest food companies are preparing to do battle with international rivals for a A$1 billion (£485 million) slice of the Australian food market. Grand Metropolitan, Associated British Foods and Allied Domecq are thought to be interested in buying the food business of Pacific Dunlop, the Australian industrial group put up for sale following a major review of the company's strategy. It has a portfolio of well known brands, including Birds Eye, Twinings and Sharwoods and a number of well known Australian brands. Nestlé, Unilever and Heinz are also known to be interested in Pacific Dunlop.

Ivory Coast oil deal

ROYAL DUTCH SHELL, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, is increasing its holding in Shell-Cote d'Ivoire to 64 per cent from a current 50 per cent through the acquisition of a 14 per cent interest from the government of Ivory Coast. The government proposes to sell a further 14 per cent to private shareholders and 2 per cent to staff. The state will retain 20 per cent. The government also intends selling part of its 30 per cent holding in Société Ivorienne de Fabrication de Lubrifiants (Sifal), the lubricant maker. It said 18 per cent of Sifal would be sold to two of its private shareholders, Shell and Mobil, and 2 per cent would be sold to staff.

NEC's strategy for Bull

NEC CORPORATION, which has acquired a 17 per cent stake in French computer maker Cie des Machines Bull, said it hopes to expand its business co-operation with Bull into the area of multimedia in the European market. "Bull is and will continue to be our important strategic partner in the European market," said an NEC spokesman. "We hope to set up a foothold in Europe especially in the area of multimedia business through expanded ties with Bull." NEC and Bull are already engaged in joint development of an electronic telephone information system under the French Government's "information superhighway" scheme.

Renault plant threat

RENAULT, the French carmaker, has sent a letter to the Portuguese Government saying it will end a contract under which it assembles Clio cars in Setubal by December 31, it was reported yesterday. Renault owns 70 per cent of the plant and the Portuguese state has a 30 per cent holding. The plant has received heavy state aid. Workers at Renault Portuguesa's factory, 30 miles south of Lisbon, halted production a week ago to protest against plans to lay off 144 workers in response to weak market conditions in Europe and a tax on car distribution in Portugal.

Russia signals change

RUSSIA wants radical changes in its diamond marketing deal with De Beers, the South African group that dominates the world diamond industry, according to Leonid Gurevich, deputy head of the Russian state committee responsible for the sector. A major shift in current marketing arrangements with the Russians could herald serious difficulties for De Beers's Central Selling Organisation, based in London, which controls about 80 per cent of the world diamond market. Under the present five-year deal, the Russians are supposed to sell 95 per cent of their rough diamonds through the CSO.

Asian exports inquiry

THE European Commission has launched an investigation into charges that imports of polyethylene and polypropylene bags and sacks from India, Indonesia and Thailand were being dumped in the European Union. The inquiry follows a complaint by the European Association for Textile Polyolefins in September that imports of the thermoplastics bags used for packaging of goods increased "significantly" at prices which were harming European industry. "For all three countries concerned ... the dumping margins calculated are substantial," the Commission said.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.25	2.08
Austria Sch	16.70	15.20
Belgium Fr	49.55	44.85
Canada $	2.298	2.136
Cyprus Cyp£	0.748	0.693
Denmark Kr	9.37	8.57
Finland Mkk	7.43	6.78
France Fr	8.22	7.57
Germany Dm	2.39	2.18
Greece Dr	378.00	354.00
Hong Kong $	12.95	11.95
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel	5.2340	4.4840
Italy Lire	2845.00	2690.00
Japan Yen	147.00	131.00
Malta	0.569	0.544
Netherlds Gld	2.651	2.421
Norway Kr	10.58	9.78
Portugal Esc	248.00	227.50
S Africa Rd	nil.	5.22
Spain Pta	205.00	182.00
Sweden Kr	12.51	11.51
Switzerland Fr	1.97	1.79
Turkey Lira	nil.	85404.5
USA $	1.689	1.559

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading Thursday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Morton in the mire

'Within 12 months Eurotunnel, one of the greatest engineering projects of the century, will once again be out of money. Morton, now 56, faces yet another white-knuckle year of brutal criticism, fierce competition and living on the edge ...'

Business Focus — The Sunday Times tomorrow

A WORKING WEEK FOR: Gus Carter

Under starter's orders in the flotation stakes

There *is* no Gus Carter. That's not a handicap for the bookmaker aiming to beat the odds with a successful placing, says **Jon Ashworth**



TONY WHITE

The going's heavy: snack bars and a quick pint between briefings for John and Nick Trewhitt and David Gilthorpe as they court institutional investors

"DO NOT forget to mention Granny," says Nick Trewhitt, quaffing a pint of bitter in a dark corner of the Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese. "She's been involved in the business for the last ten years, since father died, and she'll be right peeved if she doesn't get mentioned. We love her dearly ... even though she's a silly old bat. Don't quote that!"

Nick's brother, John, giggles nervously, clutching his beer, and blinking in wide-eyed amazement at the commotion around him. Tourists and solicitors tuck in to pies and ales. "I'm really tired," he says, his shoulders slumping for a moment. "I got back to the hotel last night and sat down and went to sleep with my clothes on; just crashed out on the bed. It's quite stressful being on the spot."

The brothers had travelled to London from their native Sunderland, once all shipbuilding and coal-mining, to tell institutional investors about plans to bring the family business to the stock market. Gus Carter, the biggest chain of bookmakers in the North East after Ladbrokes, is seeking to raise about £3.5 million through a placing. Two days into an intense round of briefings, the strain is beginning to show.

We meet in the famous old public house off Fleet Street, all Tudor beams and Dickensian atmosphere. Down the road, an angry gentleman wearing a bowler hat, and with brolly and briefcase at his feet, is sounding off at the passing traffic. A dispossessed Lloyd's name? Or perhaps Gus Carter's broking adviser? The Trewhitts laugh nervously, nursing their pints.

There has probably never been a week like it in Trewhitt family history. John, managing director of Gus Carter, and the older of the brothers, at 41, had not appeared in anything more probing than the *Sunderland Echo* until a fortnight earlier, when word of the planned flotation was first flagged in the nationals. A photograph of the brothers which appeared on Monday has John looking rather like a startled rabbit transfixed in a set of headlights. Nick, the cherubic 38-year-old development director, looks more composed. "I'm more used to this," he confides. "I come down to London three or four times a year."

The week started with the bookmaking event of the year, the Grand National. But that passed in a blur, as the brothers frantically tried to ready themselves for the big trip south. "I dashed to the television about ten minutes before the race," says John. "The last few weeks have been all drafting meetings, solicitors meetings. My involvement in the business has been virtually zero. Saturday was a catching-up day, opening the mail." Nick agrees. "We were tidying desks and getting work out of the way. We watched the National in the office. John won the office sweepstake — £10. We all thought it was a fix."

To put things in perspective, Gus Carter's shops took a total of £330,000 in bets on the big race. Ladbrokes took £75 million nationwide. British punters as a whole placed £220 million in bets. Gus Carter might be the biggest family-owned bookies chain in the region, with 72 betting offices, but its share of the National take was a mere 0.15 per cent.

Just to confuse matters further, there *is* no Gus Carter, and never has been. The business was founded by a Mr Carrick and a Mr Porter in 1958, and they conflated their surnames. The Gus part was made up. "It seemed like a good name for a bookmaker," says John. "People come in and say: 'I knew him, you know'."

The late Bryan Trewhitt came on the scene in the early Sixties and eventually bought the company. It is divided roughly into three between the matriarchal Pamela Trewhitt — the "Granny" to Nick's two children — and her older sons John and Nick. A younger son, Peter, has about 5 per cent. "He was in the Outer Hebrides originally," confides Nick, as if this might have some bearing on the float, "but he's now a speech therapist in Sheffield."

Weeks of preparation led to the moment of truth — catching the 1.30pm InterCity to King's Cross on Sunday. The brothers negotiated their way to the office of their public relations adviser, tucked away in the maze behind Fleet Street, and immediately got down to business. "We ran through the presentation rehearsal, then came out for a quick pint," says John. "Then it was back to the Swallow for a hamburger in the snack bar." Headquarters was the Swallow Hotel on Cromwell Road, which happens to be owned by Vaux Group, the Sunderland brewer, hotels and nursing homes operator. "We got a good deal," says Nick, winking conspiratorially. John is less impressed: "It takes half an hour to find the lift."

> "If you had anything to hide, they would find it"

Monday brought them face to face with the men in suits for the first time. "We were up at six," recalls John, "and took a cab to the offices of our advisers, Wise Speke. We chatted for about half an hour and looked at the papers, had a good laugh. From then on it was just bang, bang, bang."

The Gus Carter team crammed it in, enduring five briefing sessions on Monday alone. "There were very penetrating questions," says John. "If you had anything to hide, they would find it. We were relieved that we'd done a lot of preparation. It makes sure you're very clear in your thinking." Nick agrees: "It always amazes me how they can get a grasp of the business so quickly."

As the fund managers headed for the Savoy Grill and other lunchtime haunts, the Trewhitts were observing the spirit of Cadbury. "We grabbed a sandwich in a pub just ten yards on the other side of Tower Bridge," says John. "That evening, we went to a pub in Chelsea." He beams at the memory. "I couldn't imagine pub food being like this. I had a Dover sole."

Tuesday was even more hectic. The team set off at 8am and packed in four briefings before breaking for lunch. Le Café du Marche? The Howard? Le Pont de la Tour? "A sandwich bar underneath a railway bridge somewhere in the City," recalls John. "I don't really know the City. I know where Moorgate is. Most of the names are just Underground stations to me." He insists that he was given a fair ride by his audiences. "They were very polite, very friendly, very intense, not at all patronising. They're certainly all there on ability."

After a further round of meetings on Wednesday, the team caught the 6pm train home, ready to wind down for Easter. Next week brings further briefings in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds and Manchester. They will brief up to 35 institutions in all. "It's certainly been different," says Nick, reflecting on the experience, "but I'm used to presentations. We have had a lot of plates in the air." He was only too happy to return home to Hexham on the hills near Sunderland, where his wife, Jacqui, and their two children were awaiting a full report.

Every company needs its financial expert, and Gus Carter has found one in David Gilthorpe, 37, who joined as finance director last month after 15 years in the Newcastle office of Ernst & Young. A Newcastle lad, his main social activity is fell-running. "I run up and down mountains," he says, blinking with excitement. "I managed 16 fell races last year and a couple of mountain marathons. You cover 40 miles over two days, depending on how good your navigation is." Home is Lady Park near Gateshead, where he lives with his wife, Jill, and three horses. The move to Gus Carter has proved "very exciting — the chemistry is right".

The trio have yet to embrace the champagne lifestyle. John enjoys his beer; Nick favours "a glass of red wine or a pint, depending on whether it's red meat or spaghetti"; and David Gilthorpe has developed a taste for Ribena Light. "It's good for the running," he says. There are no signs yet of the trademark Jaguars and Mercedes beloved of captains of industry. Nick drives a dark green Saab, while John favours a three-year-old Audi 80. "It's just about due for replacement," he says, his eyes straying to the pathfinder prospectus.

Granny, meanwhile, remains at home in the village of Cleadon, watching from the sidelines. "She always refers to our advisers as 'They'," says Nick — "What are *they* trying to get you to do now?"

There are appreciative words for Gus Carter's 450 employees, two-thirds of whom are girls working as cashiers. "We wouldn't be here without their support," says Nick.

The year has already seen its share of pulled floats — Sunsail and Century Inns among them — and there are no guarantees that Gus Carter will see it through to the home straight. The lads are giving it their best shot.

"There is a lot of local loyalty," says Nick. "If there's a Ladbrokes 50 yards down the road, people will rather come and deal with us. They've seen us grow from a few shops to a prominent chain of bookmakers."

The past week could be just the beginning.

The City bank that hangs on to its Scottish origins

Robert Miller meets the men who look after the Robert Fleming art collection

BILL SMITH is a lucky man. As the Keeper of Art at Robert Fleming, one of the City's leading private merchant banks, he is paid to spend other people's money buying paintings of his beloved native Scotland.

Mr Smith's job is to maintain and add to Robert Fleming's noted Scottish art collection which boasts 800 oils and water colours dating from 1800 to the present day. The pictures must either be by a Scottish artist or depict a scene in Scotland.

He joined the merchant bank 30 years ago for a more conventional career but at the time the bank was facing a pressing problem: how to fill the empty walls of the office. The task was handed to David Donald who came up with the idea of buying a few Scottish paintings to mark the link with the bank's founder, Robert Fleming, who came from Dundee. The idea was, and still is, that they would not be an investment but rather "a means of promoting a pleasant, stimulating and occasionally challenging environment".

When Mr Donald died in 1985, Mr Smith stepped in. He had become an expert with a published book *The Visions of the Hills* on the paintings of Sir D Y Cameron, a pillar of the art establishment in the 1920s.

It is impossible to put a price on the collection although it is almost certainly showing a handsome profit. In the early days there was no formal budget and Scottish art had received nowhere near the acclaim it enjoys today. Robert Fleming now has the largest and most valuable private collection of Scottish art in the world. The bank provides regular tours for schools and other recognised bodies such as the National Art Collections Fund. And this summer the Robert Fleming art collection will break new ground with an exhibition of some 60 of its paintings at the National Gallery of Scotland.

These days there is a more formalised approach to managing the Flemings' collection. It does have a budget, albeit undisclosed, but acquisitions tend to cost a few thousand pounds. "If something is wildly expensive we say no," says Mr Smith, even if it would fill a particular gap in the collection. The "we" includes Robin Fleming, a grandson of the founder and present chairman of the bank. Messrs Smith and Fleming are the sole judge and jury of what the collection does and where the pictures are hung. Both men emphasise that the amount spent on building the art collection is "minuscule" compared to the bank's profits which last year were £210 million.

Paintings are rarely sold "unless we have fallen out of love with it or should never have bought it in the first place", although an S J Peploe was recently disposed of to buy a McTaggart. The pictures most likely to be bought nowadays are those by living artists such as June Redfern, Ken Currie and Stephen Barclay.

Between them Smith and Fleming have tried to make each floor of the merchant bank's six-storey head office in the city reflect a particular theme. The most obvious is on the third floor where the dealing room is located. It plays host to an apposite picture of two bulls by Keith McIntyre. The third floor is also home to what Mr Smith reveals is possibly the most controversial picture in the collection. *Hawksmoor & Golden Wonder* by Jock McFadyen, painted around 1988, depicts a dog scavenging in the rubbish on a derelict site in London's old docklands area.

Pushed to select two favourite paintings Mr Smith says his proudest acquisition is *The Unknown Corner* (1912) an oil on canvas by James Pryde. But *A Girl Reading*, by George Henry, "is the one I would carry out in the event of a fire".



Richard Ansdell's painting "Return from the Hill" adorns Flemings' boardroom

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Money Observer, January 1995

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Investment plans go on display

PRIVATE investors can select from the latest investment strategies at the Birmingham *annual conference organised* by ProShare and ShareLink on May 20 (Morag Preston writes). The investment expert will on hand to discuss Peps and share systems, together with Nick Knight, the Nomura analyst, and five leading fund managers. AITC and Lifte will be among the 25 exhibitors. Tickets cost £35, or £30 for ProShare and ShareLink customers. Call 0121 200 7755.

☐ Half a million people who are paying the wrong tax could benefit from TaxCalc, the computer program. Key in your income and outgoings for 1994-95, and TaxCalc for Windows displays the minimum tax you are legally obliged to pay the Inland Revenue as well as how much they might owe you. TaxCalc, published by *Which?*, costs £44.99. Call 0800 252 100.

☐ For those without computers, Premier Taxation Services has published the 1995 Tax Return Checklist. Call 0161 224 4240 or write to Premier Taxation Services Ltd, 159 Burnage Lane, Manchester M19 1EE for a free leaflet.

☐ Adults who were refused disability benefits in the past should claim again if their condition has deteriorated, according to Help the Aged, as new welfare benefits come into effect. The charity has also launched the *1995/6 Claiming Disability Benefits* for anyone who needs help with washing, dressing, or with preparing meals. People who need assistance with mobility must claim before their 66th birthday. Call 0800 289 404 for a free copy.

☐ Another source of hidden benefits is *Your Rights: A Guide to Money Benefits for Older People*, published by Age Concern. Benefits expert Sally West outlines the benefits available, who is eligible and offers guidance on how to claim. The handbook costs £3.25 from bookshops or by mail order from Age Concern England, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER.

☐ General Accident Direct has published an easy-reference guide to mortgage protection insurance. *Mortgage Protection: Your Questions Answered* covers the uncertainties most often expressed by mortgage holders. Call 0800 121 008 for a copy.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	1st Class Acc	Postal	£1,000	6.20	Yly
Skipton BS 01756 700511	3 High Street	Instant	£2,000	6.25	Yly
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721	First Class	Postal	£10,000	6.40	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Go Direct	Instant	£20,000	6.70	Yly

FIXED RATES	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Clydesdale Bank 0800 445265	Prime Plus	1yr bond	£5,000	8.00	F/OM
Coventry BS 01203 639333	Fixed Rate Bond	31.3.97	£25,000	8.30	F/Yly
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744500	Investmnt Certs	5yr bond	£1,000	8.50	F/Yly
Chelsea BS 0800 272505	3 Year Fixed	31.3.98	£5,000	8.50	F/Yly

TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744500		5 year	£8,300	8.50	F/Yly
Hinckley & Rugby BS 0800 774499		5 year	£3,000 A	7.65	Yly
Market Harborough BS 01858 463244		5 year	£9,000	7.75	Yly
Holmesdale BS 01737 245716		5 year	£500	7.50	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming S&P 0800 282101	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.60%	£12
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C
Alliance & Leicester 0500 900250	Visa	1.375%	18.90%	£10 E

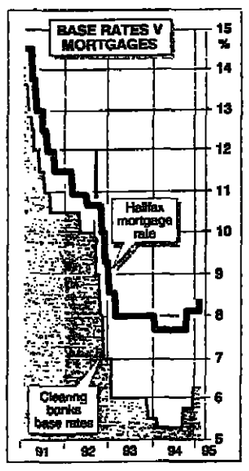
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

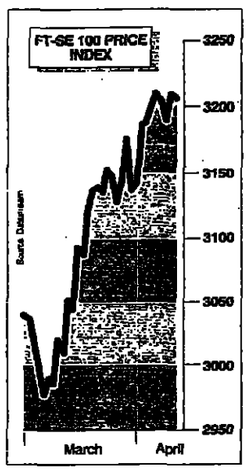
	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Clydesdale Bank 0141 223 2216	16.20%	£113.94	£103.33
Midland Bank 0345 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
N&P BS 0800 808080	15.50%	£118.22	£103.29
Alliance&Leicester 0116 255 5555	15.9%HI	£115.74	£103.77

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); OM denotes interest paid on maturity

*** RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE**
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 665)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c* ₄	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-500	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond* ₆	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bond₆	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000		01416362558
42nd Issue Certs₃₆	5.85			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Yearly Plan†₃	5.85			20-400/mth	14day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	7.85			25-1,000	1mth	01416362555
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bonds ₆	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8day	01416362603
8th Index Linked†₃	3.00			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Pensnrs Bond S2 ₆	7.50	5.63	4.50	500-20,000₅	60day	01253766151

*¹ first £70 (£140 if) at ex tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and xble &guaranteed when held for 5 years ³0.3% net bonus for £20,000+ ⁴£40,000 in addition to S1 holdings ⁵Taxable but cred in full.*

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Equit Life	Level	£10,599	£11,640	£12,984
Can Life	Level	£10,483	£11,640	£13,208
Sn Life Ca	Level	£10,694	£11,723	£13,080
MGM Asmce	Level	£10,659	£11,715	£13,161
Generali	Level	£10,892	£11,706	£13,032
SINGLE LIFE	**Female:**	**Age 60**	**Age 65**	**Age 70**
Nrch Union	Level	£9,922	£10,641	£11,714
Prudential	Level	£9,814	£10,538	£11,606
Sn Life Ca	Level	£9,812	£10,578	£11,662
Generali	Level	£9,805	£10,636	£11,792
MGM Asmce	Level	£9,927	£10,670	£11,779
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	**Male: Female:**	**Age 60 Age 55**	**Age 65 Age 60**	**Age 70 Age 65**
Nrwch Uni	Level	£9,606	£10,143	£10,924
Sn Life Ca	Level	£9,450	£10,033	£10,849
Prudential	Level	£9,429	£9,989	£10,779
MGM Asmce	Level	£9,821	£10,226	£11,095
Generali	Level	£9,463	£10,067	£10,906

Source: Annuity Direct (071 375 1175)

Compiled by Morag Preston

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at April 12, 1995

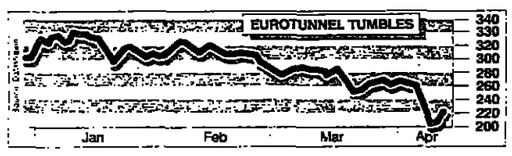
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year	1,000	Premium Life	5.50
	5,000	AIG Life	5.55
	10,000	AIG Life	5.75
	20,000	AIG life	5.85
	50,000	AIG Life	5.90
	100,000	AIG Life	5.95
	250,000	AIG Life	6.00
2 Years	1,000	Premium Life	6.30
	20,000	AIG Life	6.35
	50,000	AIG life	6.40
	100,000	AIG Life	6.45
	250,000	AIG Life	6.50
3 Years	1,000	Premium Life	6.40
	3,000	Eurolife	6.70
	5,000	Eurolife	6.80
	10,000	Eurolife	6.90
	25,000	Eurolife	7.00
4 Years	1,000	Premium Life	6.50
5 Years	1,000	Premium Life	6.60
	3,000	Eurolife	7.20
	5,000	Eurolife	7.30
	10,000	Eurolife	7.40
	25,000	Eurolife	7.50

Source: Chamberlain de Broe 01225 483636. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Vary terms. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	89.50	10.465	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	112.75	10.306	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	124.75	10.410	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	126.75	10.546	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	122.75	10.584	100.42	1,000
Cheltenham & Glos	11.750%	116.50	10.080	100.96	50,000
Coventry	12.125%	114.75	10.548	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	104.25	11.273	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	87.75	9.965	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	118.25	10.019	100.28	50,000
Leeds Permanent	13.625%	135.75	10.022	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	126.50	10.566	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	102.375	10.498	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	121.50	10.377	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	121.00	10.428	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	121.75	10.569	100.48	1,000
FLOATING RATE	**Gross coupon**	**Buying price**	**Issue price**		**Minimum purchase**
First National	9.6750%	100.00	100.00		1,000
Cheshire	9.50156%	100.50	100.00		1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett - 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Natnl & Provincial 01274 733444	2.95	neg	90	5.5% discount for 12 months
Britannia 0800 526350	2.95	neg	80	5.49% discount for 12 months
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	2.49	to £150k	90	6.05% discount to 1.5.96
Banks				
Abbey National 0800 555100	3.49	neg	75	4.85% discount to 31.5.96
Lloyds Local branch	3.60	£60k+	60	4.75% discount for 1 year

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	1.00	£25-100k	95	7.45%dsc-6m 2%d-6m,.5%d-12m
Hinckley & Rugby 0455 251234	1.25	to £150k	70	7.14% disc-9mns
Yorkshire 0274 740740	1.44	£25-£150k	95	7% disc-6 mnths 3% disc-6 mnths
Banks				
Abbey National 0800 565100	3.15	neg	75	5.19% discount to 30.6.96
HYPO - MSL 0344 394095	3.25	£100k+	95	5.10% discount to 1.5.96

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Hinckley&Rugby 0455 251 234	1.25	to 150k	70	7.14% discount for 9 mnths
Brad & Bingley 0800 252 993	3.15	£30k+	75	5.30% discount for 12 mnths
Skipton 0800 590545	2.29	to £150k	95	6% disc 5 mnths 1.75% disc 1 year
Banks				
B of Scotland 0132 556 8555	3.94	£15k-150k	95	4.50% discount to 31.1.96
Lloyds Local Branch	3.60	£60K+	95	4.75% for 1 year

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753-880482.

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AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE
Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9NS 0171 515 9900

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	459.50	486.50	+ 2.60	
UK Equity	561.00	617.00	+ 0.20	
Property	444.20	515.00	+ 0.30	
Fixed Interest	319.90	339.00	+ 2.90	
Money	257.50	269.40	+ 0.10	
International	372.90	394.50	+ 4.60	

ABBEY LIFE
Huddersfield Road, Bournemouth BH8 9AL 01202 292373

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Property Fd Inv	229.40	244.20		
Managed	237.20	252.40		
Equity Fd Inc	154.40	164.40	+ 0.60	3.9
-do- Acc	226.10	240.70	+ 1.10	
Deposit Fd	199.20	212.00	+ 0.70	
Prop Fd Series 2	231.40	246.30	+ 1.10	
Equity Fd Series 2	231.10	245.70	+ 1.10	
Managed Fd Series 2	247.40	263.30	+ 1.20	
Gilt Fd	97.30	103.50	+ 0.40	
Cash Fd	97.30	103.50	+ 0.10	
Gilt Fund Series 2	97.30	103.50	+ 0.40	
Cash Fund Series 2	97.30	103.50	+ 0.10	

ALBANY LIFE
1 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 642311

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Fd Inc	247.20	262.90	+ 1.60	
Equity Fd Acc	247.20	262.90	+ 1.60	
Property Fd	241.90	257.20	+ 1.70	
Managed Fd	253.90	269.90	+ 1.70	
Fixed Interest	99.30	105.60	+ 0.60	
Cash Fund	97.30	103.50	+ 0.10	
Deposit Fund	97.30	103.50	+ 0.10	
Pension Managed	247.20	262.90	+ 1.60	
Pension Equity	247.20	262.90	+ 1.60	

CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE
Centre House, 400 Edgware Rd, Cricklewood, London NW2 6ND 0181 452 8111

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Property Fund	164.20	174.50		
Equity Fund	164.20	174.50	+ 0.60	

CLERICAL MEDICAL INVESTMENT GROUP
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0117 9290500

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Equity Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Property Fund	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
Fixed Interest	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
Cash Fund	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Deposit Fund	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
International	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Managed	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Equity	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Property	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
Pension Fixed Int	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
Pension Cash	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Pension Deposit	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	

ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE
Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Fixed Int Pension	99.10	104.30	+ 0.60	
Property Pension	241.70	256.70	+ 1.70	
UK Equity	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Managed	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Property	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
Fixed Interest	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
Money	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
International	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Cash	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Pension Managed	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Equity	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Property	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
Pension Fixed Int	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
Pension Cash	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Pension Deposit	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Pension Int'l	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Pacific Basin	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Japan	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Gilt	97.30	103.40	+ 0.40	
Pension Index Linked	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	

AA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 5AL 01494 465465

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Property Fund	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
Managed Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Equity Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Fixed Interest Fund	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
Deposit Fund	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Cash Fund	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Pension Managed	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Equity	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Property	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
Pension Fixed Int	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
Pension Cash	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Pension Deposit	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Pension Int'l	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Pacific Basin	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Japan	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Gilt	97.30	103.40	+ 0.40	
Pension Index Linked	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	

BARCLAYS LIFE
252 Romford Road, London E7 9HR 0181 534 5543

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Pension	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
-do- Initial	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Fixed Int. Pension	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
-do- Initial	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
Property Pension	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
-do- Initial	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
International Acc	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
-do- Unit Trust	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Money Fund	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
-do- Initial	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Managed Pension	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
-do- Initial	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Equity Pension	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
-do- Initial	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Property Pension	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
-do- Initial	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
Fixed Int Pension	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
-do- Initial	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
Cash Pension	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
-do- Initial	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Deposit Pension	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
-do- Initial	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Pacific Basin Pension	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
-do- Initial	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Japan Pension	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
-do- Initial	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Gilt Pension	97.30	103.40	+ 0.40	
-do- Initial	97.30	103.40	+ 0.40	
Index Linked Pension	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
-do- Initial	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Managed Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
-do- Initial	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Equity Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
-do- Initial	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Property Fund	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
-do- Initial	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
Fixed Interest Fund	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
-do- Initial	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
Cash Fund	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
-do- Initial	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Deposit Fund	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
-do- Initial	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Pacific Basin Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
-do- Initial	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Japan Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
-do- Initial	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Gilt Fund	97.30	103.40	+ 0.40	
-do- Initial	97.30	103.40	+ 0.40	
Index Linked Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
-do- Initial	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Managed Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
-do- Initial	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Equity Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
-do- Initial	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Property Fund	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
-do- Initial	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
Fixed Interest Fund	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
-do- Initial	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
Cash Fund	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
-do- Initial	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Deposit Fund	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
-do- Initial	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Pacific Basin Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
-do- Initial	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Japan Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
-do- Initial	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Gilt Fund	97.30	103.40	+ 0.40	
-do- Initial	97.30	103.40	+ 0.40	
Index Linked Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
-do- Initial	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	

BLACK HORSE LIFE
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 574000

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Managed Fd	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Income Fund	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
Extra Income	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
Commodity Gth	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Balanced Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pacific Gr. Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
N. York & Gen'l	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pacific Basin	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
European Growth	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Japan Gro with	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Japan Gro with Fd	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
North Amer Gth	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Balanced Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Cash Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Managed Inc	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Gilt with Bonus	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Managed Gth	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	

BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE
PO Box 31, Greenock, Renfrewshire PA15 1EQ 01475 636000

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Port	155.40	164.90	+ 1.30	
Conservative Port	152.20	162.10	+ 1.00	
High Point Port	124.10	134.20	+ 0.80	

CANADA LIFE
2a High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Growth	127.50			
Managed	241.40			
Property	251.90	271.20		
Fixed Interest	251.90	271.20		
Gilt & Fixed Int	99.20	106.80		
Cash	97.30	104.80		
Gilts Exempt Mkt	97.30	104.80		
Glbl. Ind Sel	241.40	259.80		

CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE
Centre House, 400 Edgware Rd, Cricklewood, London NW2 6ND 0181 452 8111

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Property Fund	164.20	174.50		
Equity Fund	164.20	174.50	+ 0.60	

CLERICAL MEDICAL INVESTMENT GROUP
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0117 9290500

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Equity Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Property Fund	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
Fixed Interest	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
Cash Fund	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Deposit Fund	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
International	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Managed	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Equity	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Property	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
Pension Fixed Int	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
Pension Cash	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Pension Deposit	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Pension Int'l	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Pacific Basin	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Japan	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Gilt	97.30	103.40	+ 0.40	
Pension Index Linked	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	

COMMERCIAL UNION
St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Equity Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Property Fund	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
Fixed Interest	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
Cash Fund	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Deposit Fund	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Pacific Basin	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Japan	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Gilt	97.30	103.40	+ 0.40	
Index Linked	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	

CONFEDERATION LIFE
Eaton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 748400

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Fund	241.10	256.20	+ 1.60	
Equity Fund	241.10	256.20	+ 1.60	

CROWN FINANCIAL
Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW 01483 756033

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Equity Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Property Fund	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
Fixed Interest	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
Cash Fund	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Deposit Fund	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
International	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pacific Basin	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Japan	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Gilt	97.30	103.40	+ 0.40	
Index Linked	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Managed	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Equity	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Property	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
Pension Fixed Int	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
Pension Cash	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Pension Deposit	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Pension Int'l	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Pacific Basin	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Japan	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Gilt	97.30	103.40	+ 0.40	
Pension Index Linked	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	

EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE
Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ. 01242 221511

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Secure Fund	177.70	197.10	+ 0.10	
Managed Fund	253.40	268.20	+ 1.10	
-do- Series 2	153.40	161.50	+ 0.60	
Adventurous Fd	199.30	199.30	+ 2.90	
-do- Series 2	145.40	153.10	+ 2.10	
Equity Mixed Fd	223.10	245.30	+ 2.70	
-do- Series 2	154.60	163.00	+ 1.90	
UK Equity Fd	241.30	268.10	+ 2.90	
UK Equity Fund	161.30	169.80	+ 0.10	
Property Fund	129.10	136.50	+ 0.90	
Emergmnt Opps	161.50	170.00	+ 0.90	
Extra Fund	222.10	234.40	+ 0.20	
North Amer Fd	161.20	201.30	+ 1.10	
Internat Opp	214.50	220.10	+ 3.50	
Japanese Fund	124.20	130.90	+ 4.90	
Intl & West Inc	125.40	132.57	+ 0.10	
Intl & West Pen	142.90	150.31	+ 0.20	

EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND
60 St Mary Axe, London EC3 0171 928 0111
Eastgmid Bd 257.40 298.70 + 0.20

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Equity Fund	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Property Fund	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
Fixed Interest	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
Cash Fund	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Deposit Fund	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Pacific Basin	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Japan	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Gilt	97.30	103.40	+ 0.40	
Index Linked	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Managed	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Equity	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Property	241.90	257.00	+ 1.70	
Pension Fixed Int	99.30	105.50	+ 0.60	
Pension Cash	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Pension Deposit	97.30	103.40	+ 0.10	
Pension Int'l	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Pacific Basin	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Japan	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	
Pension Gilt	97.30	103.40	+ 0.40	
Pension Index Linked	247.70	263.20	+ 1.60	

GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London

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Experts judge worth of National Savings

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BARINGS VICTIMS 30

Action groups seek payout for elderly and charities



When fair exchange is no robbery

Caroline Merrell examines the variations in exchange rates available to the traveller

All the cards are stacked against you if you are trying to pay less for foreign currency before you travel. High street banks do not offer the best rates, but as a Weekend Money investigation has discovered, airport bureaux de change are forced by the British Airport Authority (BAA) to peg their rates to those of the clearing banks. Anyone outside London will almost certainly end up paying more for foreign currency, our survey showed.

The BAA, owner of Gatwick and Heathrow, does not own the bureaux in its airports but it insists as a lease condition that all bureaux offer rates that match those offered by any one of the clearing banks.

BAA claims that the bureaux operating within its airports offer a fair exchange rate. A spokesman said that requiring the bureaux to match clearing bank rates prevented them exploiting holidaymakers. On top of this, the less than generous exchange rate is offset in part by the low commission rate charged on every deal, says BAA. It insists on a standard commission rate from the offices in its premises. This is currently 1.5 per cent, compared with the 2 per cent average charged by the banks and Thomas Cook in high streets.

The banks themselves have not had a presence in either Heathrow or Gatwick for a number of years, although it is possible to withdraw sterling from a number of cash dispensers in either airport. Barclays and Lloyds used to have branch services in Gatwick, but both say that they felt it was not worth their while to continue.

A survey of foreign exchange outlets in central London found that the best rate for those wishing to buy US dollars, Italian lira or French francs was offered by TTT, a bureau de change.

Our survey showed that the difference between the rate at which you buy a currency (when you change your pounds into that currency) and the rate at which you sell (when you change your left-over foreign currency back into pounds) varied widely. Some outlets have a spread of 8 per cent, boosting the profit that they are already making on the commission from each deal. The lowest spread we found was 4 per cent, still a very profitable proposition.

Shiewet Bassam, TTT managing director, says: "We cannot have our own rates in the airport. We have to match the rate of one of the banks and none of the bank rates are very competitive. We also have a policy of offering a very small margin on currencies."

Among those with the biggest spreads was Barclays. It justifies its high margins by saying they reflected the cost of bringing currency to the UK and holding it at branches. A spokeswoman said: "Our staff are trained to give advice on the best method of taking money abroad. It is up to the customer to weigh up the costs against the service." Lloyds said its margins were to pay for the convenience of customers getting currency over the counter. The banks buy and sell currency on the foreign exchange markets where the spread is only a fraction of that paid by their customers. The spread on buying and selling the dollar in Forex markets is about 0.03 per cent.

> 'Some outlets have a spread of 8 per cent, boosting their profit further'

The method of charging commission can also make a big difference to the amount of money travellers get from exchange bureaux. The overall deal from American Express is better than it first appears. Although the rates may not be as good as those offered by its high street competitors, its policy of charging a flat fee of £2 for each currency exchanged means that for large cash amounts of over £500, it may offer the best buy.

The Post Office, the latest entrant into the foreign exchange market, has the lowest percentage commission, but when we visited its Trafalgar Square branch this week, there appeared to be no clearly visible list of the rates on offer. This could mean customers would have to queue up before they could find out what rate was on offer. The same branch did not carry £500 worth of lira.

Abbey National will only supply currencies to account holders, and requires one day's notice. But the rates on offer mean it is not worth the wait and it will not take back unused currency.



Paradise found: but the sky will seem bluer if you've managed to get a good rate of exchange for your pounds

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEALS

		Selling rate	£500	Fee			Selling rate	£500	Fee
[illegible]				4.5% plus £2	American Express Foreign Exchange Corporation, 6 James Street, London	Francs	7.76	3,880	1.5%
(account holders only)	Dollars	1.54	770			Dollars	1.60	789	
	Lira	2,677	1,313,068			Lira	2,710	1,335,000	
[illegible]				3%	AIRPORT RATES				
Haymarket	Dollars	1.562	777.88						
	Lira	2,577	1,233,146						
[illegible]				2%	Thomas Cook, Heathrow	Francs	7.57	3,730	1.5%
Regent Street	Dollars	1.574	765			Dollars	1.557	767	
	Lira	2,690	1,318,000			Lira	2,676	1,320,000	
[illegible]				2%	Travelex, Heathrow	Francs	7.57	3,730	1.5%
Oxford Street (also in Midland)	Dollars	1.556	762			Dollars	1.555	767	
	Lira	2,676	1,311,000			Lira	2,676	1,319,000	
[illegible]				min £3	ZTI Foreign Exchange Corp, Gatwick	Francs	7.57	3,730	1.5%
Regent Street	Dollars	1.563	761			Dollars	1.556	767	
	Lira	2,682	1,315,000			Lira	2,676	1,318,000	
[illegible]					International Currency Exchange, Heathrow	Francs	7.836	3,760	1.5%
Regent Street	Dollars	1.56	765			Dollars	1.562	770	
	Lira	2,700	1,329,750			Lira	2,680	1,326,000	
[illegible]				min £2.50					
	Dollars	1.566	765						
	Lira	2,671.8	1,322,000						

We asked the various banks, bureau de change and others to quote rates for £500 worth of francs, dollars and lira on Wednesday April 11.
The selling rate is the rate at which customers can buy currency

Beware the cut of the cards

Getting money out of a cashpoint abroad is seductively easy. You use your normal cashpoint or credit card and personal identification number, the instructions are often in English and local currency comes out of the machine. So what is the catch? In a word, cost: particularly if you bank with one of the the main clearing banks (Sara McConnell writes).

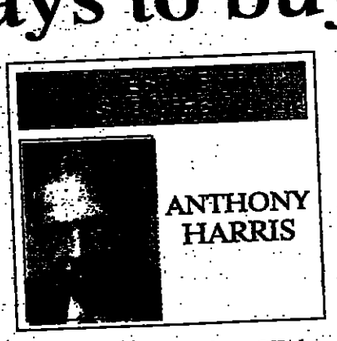
Barclays, Lloyds, NatWest and Midland all charge a fee every time you withdraw money from your account through a cash machine abroad. Barclays and Lloyds charge 1.5 per cent of each withdrawal, while Midland customers will be charged 2 per cent and NatWest customers 2.25 per cent. All except Lloyds also set a minimum fee. At Barclays and NatWest, this is £1.50 and at Midland £1. On top of this there are currency exchange costs. You will be charged similar amounts for using your credit card in a cash machine.

So frequent emergency dashes to the cashpoint to take out small sums of money in a bid to limit your holiday spending will almost certainly prove more expensive than taking out a larger amount in the first place. You can normally withdraw between £200 and £500 a day on a plastic card.

Building society or bank customers with Link cards could find they have one of the cheapest ways to withdraw money from a cashpoint abroad. There are 13 organisations whose customers can use their Link cards in Plus networks abroad. Only one of them, the Co-operative Bank, charges a 2 per cent fee for cash withdrawals from all its accounts, while the Britannia Building Society charges 1.75 per cent, with a minimum of £2 on withdrawals from some accounts closed to new business. Others charge no fee above the cost of converting the transaction into sterling.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Two ways to buy value



ANTHONY HARRIS

This column is about value investing — finding under-valued shares and holding them for as long as it takes. First, though, an example. Jowett Motors once looked under-value. Never heard of it? Then you know this is a cautionary tale. It is some 50 years old, too; but fundamentals don't change, and it deserves to be told.

Jowett Motors made a primitive van and one car model, the Javelin. This was a beauty, years ahead of its time; but it had a habit of breaking down. Indeed, I was once stopped in one by a Swiss customs officer, who simply wanted to know how I had got it so far; his brother had one which had hardly left the garage.

One of the leading shareholders in Jowett was Charles Clore (he kept it dark, and a knighthood came later). Chafing at Jowett's troubles, he called in his local Reading broker and said he must either buy control or sell out; and gave his man a month to sound out loose holders — in strict confidence, of course. In just over three weeks they were found, and our man went proudly back to Clore with his list. "Thank you for your efforts; but I've sold the lot now." Clore knew his markets: they gossip.

This is a totally unfair introduction to the world's best known value-picker, Warren Buffet, the Sage of Omaha. No-one could be further from any kind of trickery; but his activities do have a Clore effect. In spite of his best intentions. His record is spectacular: his first partnership earned nearly 30 per cent for 13 years, and Berkshire Hathaway, his holding company since 1965, has grown in value from $22 million to more than $10 billion in 30 years. But now that his holdings are publicly listed they are eagerly bought, so success is partly automatic, and in a sense unearned.

Indeed, it has recently been supercharged. BH shares have just had a spectacular year in spite of the admission of a couple of very bad picks: US Air and Salomon Brothers.

Why? Because a new popular biography has spread his US reputation still further. For the same reason, BH trades at a large premium over its asset value; so Buffet followers would do better to buy the shares than to buy BH. Better still, follow his philosophy rather than his picks.

This is to value the business on a discounted present value of expected "owner earnings" — a Buffet term which means, roughly, cash flow less capital expenditure. If this value, using conservative assumptions, is well above the current price, buy — and hold. Sounds like a lot of work? So it should; if picking were easy, there would be no under-valued shares. And the joy of the Buffet approach is that a few good picks will do. He may hold his chosen shares for more than 20 years, and at one stage the BH portfolio contained just five companies. In short, the ideal patient, long-term investor.

But will it work in future? Apart from the flattering Clore effect, which suggests you must buy shares before Buffet gets to them, there is efficient market theory: as his methods are now known, they should quickly be reflected in market prices. This is the assumption behind the superficially similar JP Morgan search for underlying value, defined in a Buffet-like way. The very successful Morgan fund managers simply put in more effort than anyone else, and reckon to get there first. Unlike Buffet they are highly active in-and out traders, selling as soon as the market catches up. The trouble is that it takes 28 top analysts, and a huge database, to do the job.

No hope for you, then? Just two suggestions. You can trawl among small companies, often beneath the attention of the big funds. Or you can let the record do the picking.

One of the oldest of all investment slogans, and certainly one of the soundest, is to cut your losses and run your gains. Only one catch there: the temptation to cash in. Temptation, as Oscar Wilde knew, is the toughest test of all.

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Source of all figures: Micropal, offer to bid with gross income reinvested to 1.4.95. Five year annualised performance: 7.8%. MoneyBuilder was launched on 8.2.88. MoneyBuilder has only been available as a PEP since 31.1.94. *The MoneyBuilder unit trust PEP is available for lump sum investments only, with a minimum of £3,000. Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of investments and any income from them may go down as well as up, and an investor may not get back the amount invested. Fidelity MoneyBuilder is an authorised unit trust offered and managed by Fidelity Investment Services Limited, regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. The Fidelity PEP is offered and managed by Fidelity Investments Limited, regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. Tax assumptions may be subject to future statutory change and the value of tax savings will depend upon individual circumstances.

How National Savings match up

Experts give their opinions on how the current range of investment schemes compares with competitors

The Department for National Savings, which keeps in its care close to £50 billion of our cash, has scarcely been the most exciting institution of late. (Anne Ashworth writes). Despite rises elsewhere, its rates seem immobilised. The news that National Savings need only contribute £2.5 billion to Government funding in 1995/96, against £3.5 billion last year, means that a burst of innovation is unlikely.

While National Savings says that it cannot fall out of line with the market, its Investment and Ordinary deposit accounts do not compare favourably with what a building society offers.

To see how well the various investment schemes, such as certificates and Income Bonds, matched up to the competition, we asked independent financial adviser Robert Boyton and Moira Elms, partner at Coopers & Lybrand, the accountants, to assess the current range.

Capital Bonds
Designed to be held for five years, the series 1 Capital Bonds pay 5.15 per cent in the first year and 6.1 per cent, 7.6 per cent, 9 per cent and 11 per cent in the four subsequent years. If you hold the bonds for five years, this is equal to 7.75 per cent per annum compound.

Although interest is paid before the deduction of tax, taxpayers must declare it to the taxman. The return is worth 5.81 per cent to a basic rate taxpayer and 4.65 per cent to higher rate taxpayer. There is no interest if the bond is cashed within the first year. Minimum investment, £100, maximum holding £250,000.

RB: "Suitable for those who don't want to take any risks."
ME: "If you are ready to take a gamble on interest rates, this is not a bad buy."

Children's Bonus Bonds
The current issue G of Bonus Bonds pays a guaranteed 7.85 per cent tax free over five years which includes a bonus paid at the fifth anniversary. Minimum purchase £25, maximum holding £1,000.

RB: "If you want to invest some money for a child, this provides a reasonable enough home for the first £1,000."
ME: "I think that Children's Bonus Bonds offer a quite good deal and can make a worthwhile gift. But as the rate is fixed, you have to be prepared to take a view on interest rates."

First Option Bonds
First (Fixed Interest Rate Savings Tax-paid) Option Bonds are aimed at basic rate taxpayers and offer a gross rate of 6.4 per cent, guaranteed for one year. Basic rate tax is deducted before the interest is paid, giving a net rate of 4.8 per cent. You will receive no interest if you withdraw your money within the first year. Bonds of £20,000 or more attract a 0.4 per cent bonus. Minimum purchase, £1,000, maximum holding £250,000.

RB: "You can do better. For example, the Clydesdale Bank is paying 8 per cent on its one-year fixed rate bond."
ME: "I wouldn't say that this is my favourite product and I wouldn't commit a huge amount of resources to it, as you can do better. Elderly non taxpayers should stay away, as tax is deducted at source."

Income Bonds
The principal selling point is the monthly 6.5 per cent interest on amounts from £2,000 to £25,000, rising to 6.75 per cent on amounts of £25,000 or more. Although this is paid gross, it is taxable unless the buyer is a non-taxpayer. You must give three months' notice to withdraw your money, and if you decide to quit within the first year, you will receive no interest whatsoever, a favourite National Savings ploy. Minimum investment £2,000, maximum £250,000.

RB: "The after-tax returns of 4.88 per cent for a basic rate taxpayer and 3.9 per cent for a higher rate taxpayer make me less than keen on Income Bonds." ME: "I am not anti Income Bonds, but building society postal accounts pay better rates."

Pensioners Guaranteed Income Bonds
Pensioners Bonds offer a guaranteed 7.5 per cent, fixed for five years. The interest is paid gross but is sadly not tax-free. After tax, basic rate taxpayers earn only 5.62 per cent and higher rate taxpayers, 4.5 per cent, paid monthly. As a consolation, the money is paid into your bank account on the 19th day of each month. The repayment penalties are harsh. If you need to withdraw your cash at any time during the five-year period, not only must you give 60 days' notice, you will also lose 60 days' interest. Minimum purchase £500, maximum holding £20,000.

RB: "If you're a taxpayer, you could do much better. For example, if you can lock away your money until 1998, the Chelsea Building Society is offering an 8.50 per cent three-year fixed rate bond. The monthly income rate is 8.19 per cent." ME: "If you are a non-taxpayer, it's a fair return. The snag is that it is fixed."

Savings Certificates
National Savings certificates come in two varieties, Ordinary and Index-Linked. Both offer the highest return if they are held for five years. The current 42nd issue of Ordinary certificates pay 4 per cent in year one, 4.6 per cent in year two, 5.5 per cent in year three, 6.75 per cent in year four, and 8.46 per cent in year five, equal to 5.85 per cent per annum compound. This is tax-free. You can cash in whenever you wish, but no interest will be paid during the first year. Minimum purchase £100, maximum holding £10,000, plus £20,000 from matured certificates.

Index-Linked certificates offer inflation proofing, plus interest. Each year the value of savings is increased by the inflation rate. Extra interest is also paid at the following rates: year one, 1.25 per cent, year two, 1.75 per cent, year three, 2.5 per cent, year four, 3.5 per cent, year five, 6.07 per cent, equal to 3 per cent per annum compound. Minimum purchase £100, maximum holding £10,000, plus £20,000 from matured certificates.

RB: "For a higher rate taxpayer, the rate on the Ordinary certificates work out at an attractive 9.75 per cent. To a basic rate taxpayer, it is worth 7.80 per cent which is again not bad, especially as it is guaranteed. If inflation averages around 3 per cent, the return on the Index-Linked certificates would be worth 10 per cent — again not too bad." ME: "I am not too impressed with the rates on the ordinary certificates, but the Index-Linked are an excellent buy for higher rate taxpayers."



Time was when National Savings were more fun

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North America, too, has had its own share of investment inertia as the Clinton administration founders on a reef of unpopularity and allegations, but US companies are renowned for their ability to react positively to competition and opportunity.

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And in the Far East, political uncertainty in North Korea continues to cast a shadow over parts of the region. Nonetheless, the emerging economies on the Pacific Rim still contain some of the most exciting and ambitious companies to be found anywhere in the world - not least in the extremely attractive high-tech sector.

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Templeton

Time to cut out the deadwood

PRAISE and brickbats are handed out in equal measure in the *1995 Investment Trust Yearbook*, published by Credit Lyonnais Laing this week.

The brickbats are aimed at the "deadwood" trusts, estimated to have combined assets of £3 billion and which CLL predicts will find it increasingly hard to justify their existence. The CLL team adds: "Rationalisation will be the name of the game over the next 18 months, as a period of consolidation is required".

Last year's crop of new issues have also been found wanting. CLL says: "If one had participated in all the new issues of 1994 in equal size, the value of every £100 invested would currently be £82.70, a loss of 17.3 per cent. This includes the value of any "free" warrants issued."

CLL also urges investors to be more vocal, and says: "We would like to see more shareholders realising that it is their company and that the management and directors are answerable to them."

But there is praise for the sector's general performance. CLL says that since the end of 1990, the number of trusts in issue has increased by 90 per cent and the FTSE Investment Trust Index has appreciated by 70.2 per cent compared with a 50.4 per cent rise in the FTSE All Share index.

As to the future, CLL expects discounts to trade in a range of 11 per cent to 4 per cent, and says that there is now real fundamental value in many of the sub-sectors ravaged last year. This is where investors "should concentrate their firepower," says CLL. The authors conclude: "Ignore the sector at your peril."

■ The 680-page CLL annual costs £22.50 (plus £2.50 p&p) with a cheque to Credit Lyonnais Laing, available from the Investment Trust Dept. (Yearbook Offer 1995), CLL, Broadwalk House, 5 Appold Street, London EC2A 2DA.

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A little flair is no sin for investment brands



ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

There is nothing like a brand: that special name that makes a product more than the sum of its parts. Its appeal is partly familiarity, partly the promise of quality.

When making an investment, or arranging a pension or life insurance, we need the reassurance of a company we know, whose advertising slogan we can sing.

Lately, however, there has been a shift in our purchasing habits in financial services. Suddenly we are more willing to deal with businesses better known for things other than fund management. Virgin, as in the airline and the cola, is a case in point, attracting about £42 million to its Pep before the tax year end. People's readiness to accept such an interloper has much to do with the unease now surrounding the pension scandal-tarnished life insurance industry.

In such a climate there seems little doubt that Britain's most celebrated brand, Marks & Spencer, will be even more successful than it hoped when it enters the life and pensions market next week.

M&S should, however, aim to deliver the same standards in these products as it does in food and recently in fashion. The company has been happy to see its two unit trusts, launched in 1998, perform in a fair-to-middling way, rather than splendidly. However, a bit of brilliance is nothing to be afraid of.

National Savings is another brand that the British keep close to their hearts — sometimes too close. As those "You're richer than you think" surveys regularly relate, the backs of drawers throughout the land are stuffed with out-of-date savings certificates. Their sum total is £1.5 billion.

Their holders, presuming that these pieces of paper are still earning a reasonable rate of interest, seem loath to let them go. The reality, however, is that these lodgers are not paying their way. The rate on matured ordinary certificates is an intentionally mean 3.51 per cent.

National Savings designed these rates to encourage holders to show their ungrateful guests the door and hurry round to the post office to reinvest the money in products from the current range. However, anyone who this weekend feels moved to a frantic clearout and cash-in of all their certificates should not be too thorough. Certificates that have yet to mature should be allowed to stay.

You should certainly continue to give house room to the Fifth index-linked issue, which went on sale in July 1990. If those who invested at that time surrender before July this year, they will miss out on a tax-free return in the final year of 15.13 per cent, before the inflation-proofing element is added. If inflation is 3 per cent, the final year return works out 18.13 per cent, worth 24.17 per cent to a basic-rate taxpayer and 30.2 per cent to a higher-rate taxpayer. Sadly, nothing on offer today from National Savings, which is content to be middle-of-the-road, can even compare with those terms, a policy that may strain our affection.

Many will fail to benefit from the Halifax-Leeds merger, says **Sara McConnnell**

Thousands miss out at the Halifax

Tens of thousands of employees with mortgages from the Halifax Building Society stand to get nothing when the Halifax hands out free shares to savers and borrowers after it comes to the stock market next year.

Employees of the Bank of England, the Prudential, Britain's largest insurance company, and Standard Life, the largest mutual insurer, are among those excluded from the handout. Also excluded are employees of Pearl Assurance and 3i.

All work for organisations which subcontracted the administration of their subsidised staff mortgages to the Halifax. They will not qualify for the parcel of free shares, expected to be worth about £600, because their loans are handled by Halifax Loans, a subsidiary of the society, which do not qualify under the merger terms.

The High Court said last [illegible] that the 7.1 million [illegible] borrowers with the Halifax itself could share in the payout when the society merges with the Leeds Permanent and becomes a public company. Altogether 10 million savers and borrowers, with at least £100 deposited or outstanding on a loan on November 25 last year, will get shares.

The Halifax confirmed this week that borrowers with Halifax Loans would not qualify. Other subsidiaries whose customers will not get anything from the flotation include Halifax Property Services, Halifax International (Jersey), the society's offshore arm, and Halifax Independent Financial Advisers.

Halifax Loans has £2.6 billion of mortgage loans on its books. More than half of this represents loans to borrowers from the Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP), which sold its mortgage book to the Halifax in February this year. The 20,000 BNP borrowers would not qualify for shares in any case because they were not Halifax customers on the November 1994 qualifying date, the Halifax said.

Staff have been asking if they stood to get anything after reading of the shareout

But tens of thousands of employees whose companies passed their staff loans over to the Halifax well before the qualifying date will not get anything. Some companies have still not heard officially from the society.

The Pearl, which has 6,000 staff with subsidised mortgages through Halifax Loans, said it was still waiting for the Halifax to clarify its position. Staff have been asking if they stood to get anything after reading of the shareout in the press. Pearl staff mortgages have been managed by Halifax Loans since 1992. The Prudential, which has 9,000 people with Halifax-administered loans, is also waiting to hear from the Halifax. It farmed out the administration of the loans to the Halifax in 1992.

Standard Life employees approached the Halifax when the merger was announced and got confirmation that they would not be included. One angry employee, who preferred not to be named, said that Standard Life workers were being "effectively disenfranchised". The company has an estimated workforce of 3,000 with Halifax Loans-administered mortgages.

The Bank of England confirmed that some of its staff had loans administered by Halifax Loans Ltd but declined to say how many. 3i said it had handed the administration of some employees' loans over to the Halifax subsidiary last year and has not yet made a statement to its staff on the position.



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Special offers and discounts for reluctant homebuyers

ADVERTISING ARCHIVES



Buyers have the choice of properties and mortgage deals

Lenders are cutting rates to the bone this Easter in an attempt to revive the housing market, **Liz Dolan** finds

Desperate mortgage lenders have trimmed rates to the bone this Easter in a bid to inject a bit of life into today's catatonic housing market.

At what used to be the peak time for homebuyers, the air is thick with special offers: heavy discounts on variable rates, generous "cashback" bribes and, for people who prefer to take a punt on base-rate movements, fixed rates at temptingly low levels. Mortgage Link, which supplies news of the latest offers to estate agents and brokers, reckons homebuyers can choose from a list of more than 1,000 special deals.*

Even people who have no intention of moving are wooed by competing lenders with as much gusto as any house mover or first-time buyer.

"People are migrating from lender to lender, rather than house to house," says Simon Tyler of mortgage broker Chase de Vere. "We have people who remortgage every two or three years to pick up the best deals."

But do not switch to another lender without consulting the one you have at the moment, he says, as you may be able to negotiate an even better deal. Nowadays, prospective lenders quite often ask for mortgage and bank statements, rather than asking the existing lender for a reference. This prevents rivals from knowing that they are about to lose one of their customers, thus depriving them of the chance of persuading them to stay.

The trend among home movers and remortgagers alike is towards shorter-term fixed rates. "Most people go for one or two-year discounts and short-term fixed rates because of the premium they have to pay for longer-term fixes," says Ian Darby, of John Charcol, the mortgage broker.

There are good reasons for taking a shorter-term view in today's market, he says. Compare, for instance, the likely outcome of choosing a 5.75 per cent, two-year fix such as that available from the Bristol & West, as opposed to the five-year 8.99 per cent fix offered by Bradford & Bingley.

During the first two years, those who choose the B&B mortgage will be paying interest of 8.99 per cent a year, compared with 5.75 per cent for the B&W borrowers. That means a massive 3.24 percentage points extra each year. At the end of the two years, the B&W group will transfer to the society's variable rate, and those with the B&B mortgage will continue to pay interest of 8.99 per cent for the next three years.

To justify the pain of paying a much higher rate during the first two years, the prevailing variable rate over the next three will have to average 11.15 per cent a year. "We think rates are unlikely to go that high," Mr Darby says. "Also, the cash flow savings on a shorter-term fix are useful, especially for people who have just moved into a new home."

The same argument could be applied to discounts, typically 3 per cent over two years.

Simon Tyler is more convinced by the virtues of longer-term offers, but accepts that shorter-term fixes have a psychological advantage. "If borrowers were 100 per cent pragmatic, everyone would go for today's five-year fixes," he says. "Just over 8.5 per cent is still possible, compared with a variable rate of between 8.35 per cent and 8.4 per cent. The mortgage rate since 1945 has averaged 8.4 per cent. Over the past 25 years it's been just over 11 per cent. But, when offered a two-year fix at 5.5-6 per cent, it takes a brave borrower to take a long-term view."

However desperate they may have become, most of the really attractive special offers are open only to the *crème de la crème*: borrowers with perfect repayment records and secure salaries who have built up reasonable equity levels.

But anyone tempted to move should watch out for traps laid to prevent them from rate-hopping to another rival once the original deal expires. Early redemption penalties, for instance, now tend to stretch far beyond the offer period. A typical two-year fix carries redemption penalties for the first four years of the mortgage, that is to say an extra two years after the special rate ceases to apply.

People who opt for cashbacks are penalised if they redeem within three to five years, depending on the lender.

☐ Mortgage Link's best-buy fixed rates: 1.9 per cent for one year, or 6.99 per cent for three (Yorkshire Building Society); 5.49 per cent for two years, or 8.54 per cent for five (Northern Rock); 8.49 per cent for four years (Birmingham Midshires). But check out fees, penalties and compulsory extras.

BIG RATE CUTS

■ **Woolwich:** Two-year 6.49 per cent fixed rate (95 per cent mortgage), or 5.95 per cent (90 per cent) for first-time buyers. Fee £125; £250 cashback; valuation refund up to £400. Redemption penalty: six months' interest up to May 1999.

■ **Chelsea:** Has cut its two-year fix from 6.99 to 5.99 per cent on loans of up to 90 per cent. Fee £95. Penalty: three months' interest in the first five years. Free contents cover to end-1995 if buildings cover taken out with the society.

■ **West Bromwich:** Fix at 5.45 per cent up to end-July 1996 on loans up to 80 per cent of value. No fee, but society's buildings cover obligatory. Penalty: three months' interest, falling to one month's interest after rate reverts.

■ **National Westminster:** Fix at 6.49 per cent for first-time buyers, 6.99 per cent for all other borrowers, until July 31 1997. No fee for existing customers moving home; £100 for first-time buyers; £250 others. Cashback £400 (£450 first-time buyers) until end-April. Penalty: three months' interest on redemption before end-July 1999.

■ **Prudential:** Free buildings insurance, worth £190 to the average homebuyer, to anyone taking out a mortgage with Bradford and Bingley, NatWest, Dunfermline or Western Trust via the Pru's mortgage service.

■ **Lloyds Bank:** Until June 6; all customers, even those with other mortgage lenders, may take out mortgage unemployment and sickness cover with the bank. *Premium: £6.50 per £100 monthly benefit.*

Negative equity trap, part II

Attempts by trading standards officers to react to mounting concerns about Union Finance, the Southend-on-Sea firm which claims to have sprung up to 2,000 home buyers from the negative equity trap, have been frustrated by the apparent lack of support from mortgage lenders and other interested bodies.

"It's a little bit mysterious that the industry doesn't seem able to come forward with a really positive challenge to this company," says Les Barker, director of community services, Southend Borough Council. "It would appear that there has been no obvious help from the Council of Mortgage Lenders. I was due to meet them earlier this week but they cancelled because someone was sick. We have written to government departments, but noone seems able to hang their hat on any breach of legislation."

Meanwhile, Union Finance is expanding. It plans to open a new branch in Southampton very shortly. Mr Barker's department is already in touch with the local authority there, and has also contacted the Advertising Standards Authority about the wording of an advertisement in a Southampton newspaper.

Under the heading "Negative Equity — Positive Answer", this states that doctors, accountants, solicitors and barristers have benefited from the firm's advice. Most of Union Finance's customers are advised to move out and hand in their keys as any debt left after the property has been sold will be settled by mortgage indemnity insurers.

Lenders warn that borrowers will still be liable for the debt and will appear on mortgage blacklists. But there is evidence that some manage to convince building societies that they are first-time buyers, or find other ways of circumventing the system.

One customer said: "I know the risk I'm running, but I just don't care any more. If they want to come after me later, that's a chance I'm prepared to take."

In a critical report this week, Meridian TV's *Serve You Right* team pointed out that, if Union Finance is wrong, customers risk being saddled with debts much greater than the value of their existing negative equity because interest rate charges will continue to build up. Many of these people have no arrears when they first visit Union Finance. Last week, the Consumers' Association called on the Office of Fair Trading to act.

The Woolwich and Cheshire are among several societies to have started legal proceedings against borrowers who have handed in their keys. "We want a trial to clear the air," the Woolwich says, firmly. "We're doing it as a matter of principle."

LIZ DOLAN

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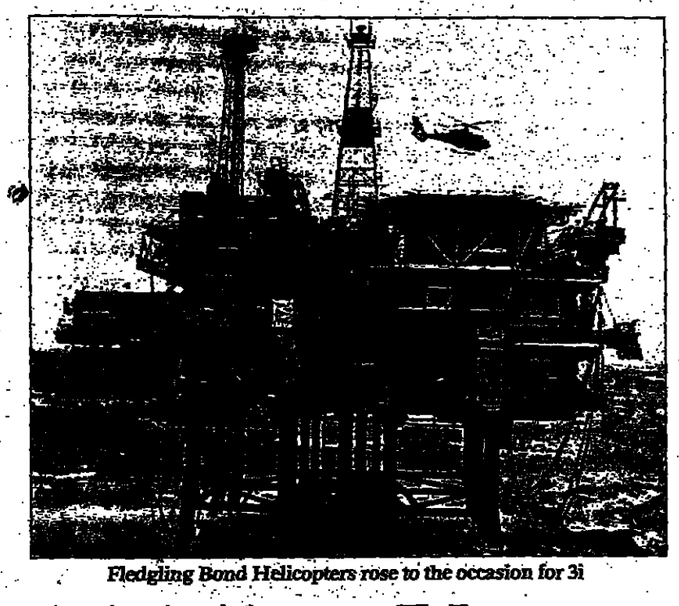
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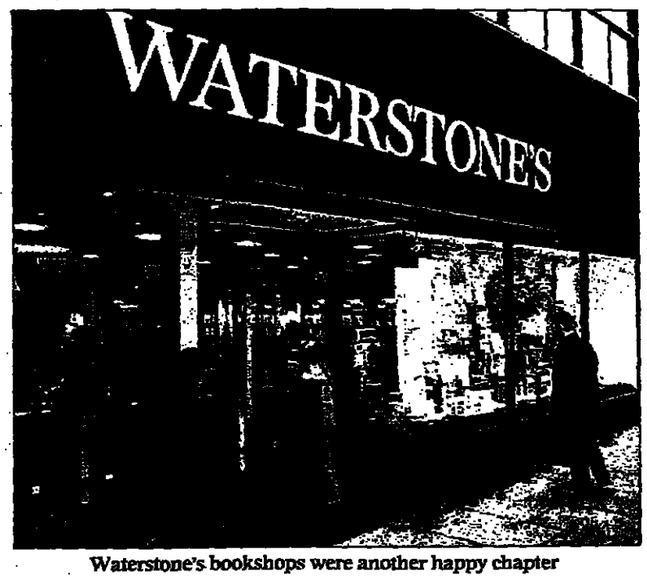
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Schroder Investment Management

Robert Miller looks at the success enjoyed by the venture capital industry



Fledgling Bond Helicopters rose to the occasion for 3i



Waterstone's bookshops were another happy chapter

Venture into a new world of investment

Amalgamation of the English and Scottish parliaments at Westminster in 1707 was driven largely by the spectacular failure of a venture capital investment.

In 1695, the Darien Company was formed to establish a colony in Panama to trade with the Americas, Africa and India. The first expedition, consisting of five ships and 1,200 men, sailed from Leith. They took possession of the territory under the name of New Caledonia and laid the foundations of a city called New Edinburgh. A second expedition followed the next year.

But heat and disease took their toll and, finally, a Spanish squadron forced the evacuation of the colony. The shareholders lost everything and the financial effect on Scotland was disastrous — hence the Act of Union in 1707.

Lately, however, the venture capital industry has enjoyed more success. Figures published by the British Venture Capital Association (BVCA) this week show that a record £2 billion was raised last year. Today, it provides much needed capital investment for unlisted companies to grow and develop and, just as important, employ more people.

The flagship of the venture capital movement is 3i, formerly Investors in Industry, which was formed just after the Second World War. Last year, the shareholders, which include the Bank of England and high street banks such as NatWest, Lloyds, Midland, Bank of Scotland, and Barclays, sold 45 per cent of their shares in a public flotation that raised more than £700 million. After becoming a stock market company, 3i was listed as an investment trust.

Indeed, investment trusts have proved to be the ideal, but certainly not the only, way for investors to participate in a potential success story from an early stage. 3i can boast numerous success stories.

It backed the fledgling Bond Helicopters company with a £25,000 loan in 1970. Two years later, Bond entered the North Sea market, with further backing from 3i. Last year, Bond Helicopters merged with Helikopter Service of Norway, valuing Bond at more than £70 million. Waterstone's, the bookshop chain, is another example of 3i's ability to spot a winner. There are some 25 investment trusts listed in the Venture and Development sector by the Association of Investment Trust Companies. Unit trusts do not have a comparable sector as they do not enjoy the same investment freedom with unquoted companies as do investment trusts.

The investment trust venture capital category is dominated by 3i but, as it was listed just last year, it features only in the short-term performance statistics. The other major venture capital trust managers include Electra, Murray Johnstone, Kleinwort Benson, Dunedin and Foreign & Colonial. A number offer low-cost regular savings schemes. Brian Larcombe, finance director of 3i and chairman of the BVCA, believes the appeal of venture capital has spread not just to a much wider investment audience but also to private companies. But he says there is still some way to go before the sector receives the sort of recognition that it has achieved in America where it is regarded as an asset class in its own right.

Mr Larcombe adds that the attraction of venture capital trusts is that the risk is spread over a portfolio, which in 3i's case is 3,500 companies amounting to more than £3 billion. But he says that trusts such as 3i should not be confused with the new style venture capital trusts that will become available some time after June. These will offer a series of special tax breaks, but will be very different animals. The sad news for investors is that SUMIT, the top performing venture capital investment trust, is coming to the end of its life. In January, the company that manages the trust was bought by Murray Johnstone. Geoff Burns, the manager of Murray Ventures and a £40 million SUMIT portfolio, explains: "Shareholders are due to vote on whether to wind up the trust next month and some 75 per cent of the portfolio has been liquidated. But the management company, SUMIT Equity Ventures, will continue to operate and will help to strengthen our regional network of contacts and maintain our deal flow."

The £99 million Murray Ventures trust has a very definite investment philosophy. Two years ago, the weighting of the portfolio was 40 per cent in unlisted companies with the remainder in more liquid listed companies. Now it has 62 per cent invested in unlisted companies as the economy recovers.

Murray Ventures is the only trust of its type that can be linked to a personal equity plan. However, when the Finance Bill currently before Parliament receives royal assent, all 25 will qualify as a pep. There is also a growing band of investors who want to participate in the venture capital sector outside investment trusts. These investors can be introduced to a range of companies through free services such as that offered by NatWest Angels. Alternatively, the BVCA produces several helpful publications.

BVCA: 0171-240 3846; NatWest Angels: 0171-454 2236.

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Kleinwort Development Fund	112.74	Dunedin Enterprise	118.82	Thompson Clive	225.83
Thompson Clive	112.71	Kleinwort Development Fund	116.17	For & Col Enterprise	222.57
Manakin Hldgs	110.00	Thompson Clive	115.58	Dunedin Enterprise	220.77
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TT2

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Smart move with a smart card by the Co-op Bank

From Cathleen Stephen

Sir, I was interested to read the letter (April 8) about the Co-op Visa card. A number of years ago I took out an Oxfam Visa card, because a small proportion of every transaction goes to Oxfam, a charity I had always supported.

Since September 1994, the Oxfam Visa card has been run by the Co-op Bank. I have always paid off the balance in full every month, but last October I was surprised to see that I had been charged interest. On looking more closely at the statement, I realised that there are now two payment dates — one for full payment and one for part payment. The date for full payment is ten days earlier than that for part payment.

Another smart move, Co-op. They may not be able to charge me interest on my outstanding balance, but they are compensating by getting my money — and the money of thousands of other customers — ten days earlier than they might have got it. My first instinct was to cut my card in half, but my loyalty to Oxfam prevented me.

The Co-op bank is busily advertising its political correctness on television. I view their commercials with a certain degree of cynicism.

Yours faithfully
CATHLEEN STEPHEN,
31 Prestonhall Avenue,
Glenrothes,
Fife.

Letters to the Weekend Money section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

Some choice from the Midland

From P. C. Holderness

Sir, I have just received a copy of the Midland Choice awards which lists items of entertainment which I can get in exchange for the points which I have earned by using my Midland Bank Access or Visa cards. As I gain one point for every £10 spent, I have discovered that by spending £9,000, I can get a free computer game (PGA Golf 486) or by spending £16,000, an encyclopaedia. (*The Encyclopaedia of Science*).

Or to save points I can spend £1,000 and pay £36.99 for the game and similarly spend £1,000, plus £69.99 for the encyclopaedia.

However, there is an alternative way which is cheaper and that is to buy the identical items from a retail computer store (as advertised in *The Times*, April 6, 1995), where the golf game costs £28.78 and the encyclopaedia £49.94. Is the Midland Bank telling me to stop using my credit cards?

Yours faithfully
P. C. HOLDERNESS,
Pipers Rest, Missenden Road,
Great Kingshill,
High Wycombe, Bucks.

Higher water level on South Coast

From David Buscall

Sir, Mr Cresswell (Weekend Money, April 8) may like to know that water is rising, although a little more slowly, along the South Coast as well. Bills in these parts are up by 7.05 per cent on last year and 23.03 per cent on three years. Inflation seems to have risen by a little under 8 per cent — for three years.

Water charges against other household costs are perhaps more interesting. Ten or 15 years ago, water rates were usually 25 per cent to 30 per cent of of general local authority rates. Today they look to be 50 per cent, or more.

Gas and electricity bills, given reasonably consistent consumption, have not varied much over ten years but water bills seem to have doubled. Harder to be clean than warm?

DAVID BUSCALL,
9 The Paddock,
Hove, East Sussex.

Searching for a fair fee bank zone

From Mr Gary Fawcett

Sir, I share Miss Jane Hearn's views expressed in her letter of April 8 concerning the exorbitant so-called administration cost of £58.75 Barclays Bank charges for providing a reference for remortgage purposes.

I negotiated ("I shall transfer my account elsewhere" etc) with Barclays a standard letter fee of £8, indicating financial security. Apparently the £58.75 fee is required when replying to pre-printed questionnaires from prospective lenders (a task less difficult than composing a letter, I imagine). An alternative DIY reference, consisting of three years' previous mortgage statements, bank statements and a less costly employer's reference may satisfy a prospective lender.

Sadly, I am unable to offer any constructive advice on escaping the £29 fee charged by Barclays Home Loans for releasing property title deeds, which are lodged with Securicor for safekeeping. The fee reflects their charges for freeing the same.

Yours, soon-to-be-Barclays-free,
GARY FAWCETT,
18 Carlton Crescent,
Southampton.

Winners and losers

From T.P. Keane

Sir, Beware the company that is taken over. On October 4, 1990, I invested £6,345 in an MIM Britannia Special Situations Personal Equity Plan. After being taken over by Invesco, which subsequently has had two further re-internal organisations, the value on March 24 this year, with all dividends reinvested, was £6,606. I've lost, but I wager Invesco have done briliantly.

Yours faithfully
T.P. KEANE,
River House,
Hemingford Grey,
Huntingdon,
Cambridgeshire.

How odds can grow on not getting a letter from Ernie

From David Morley

Sir, I wonder if many Premium Bond holders realise that, as the number of bonds in circulation increases, their chances of winning the more attractive prizes (£5,000 and above) decreases proportionally.

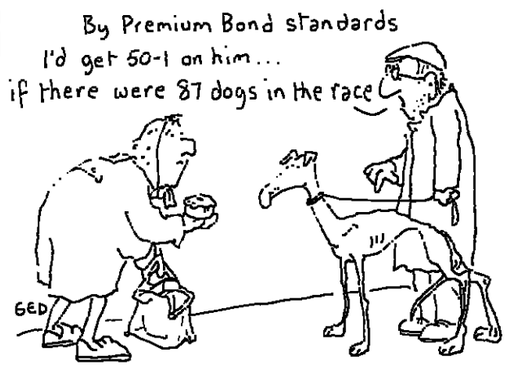
Twice the number of bonds in circulation results in half the chance of winning larger prizes.

The odds of being a winner remains constant at 15,000 to one but, as the amount available for prizes increases, the extra cash is allotted as prizes of £1,000 or less, with an enormous rise in the number of £50 prizes.

Therefore, the more successful the Government is at selling Premium Bonds, the less inclined I am to leave my money with Ernie — unless they are willing to reconsider the prize win structure.

Any comments from Lytham St Annes?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MORLEY,
17 Formby Avenue,
Stanmore,
Middlesex.





Geoffrey and Joan Powell and close relatives lost £50,000 in the Barings collapse

Barings losers are out for recompense

Action groups want a payout for charities and aged investors.

Robert Miller reports

The Bank of England's report on the collapse of Barings may still be some way off, but most observers consider it almost inconceivable that certain senior people within the London headquarters of Barings did not know that the trading positions taken by Nick Leeson in its Singapore office involved a high degree of risk. If they did not know, they should have done.

And if those people could see the legacy they have left to many, mainly elderly, investors, not to mention pension funds and life companies that look after money on behalf of clients, they should feel deeply ashamed. That is the view of Geoffrey Powell, who, with his wife, Joan, and close family has lost almost £50,000.

Mr Powell, 82, is a retired general bank manager. So, it was only natural that relatives, including his 95-year-old brother, turned to him for advice on where to invest their money.

Mr Powell explains: "I recommended the second issue of Barings's preference shares. After all Barings was a blue chip bank and counted the Queen as one of its customers. I feel let down by the heinous behaviour of the people who let this happen and have left us out on a limb. I suppose I'm old enough to realise these things happen, but it hurts nonetheless."

The Powells are by no means unique in their loss. Charities, such as Downside Abbey (£50,000) and the Children's Hospital Trust Fund (£20,000), have also been left with certificates, described by Internationale Nederlanden Groep (ING), the new Dutch owner of Barings, as "completely worthless". So, too, are certain loan notes issued by Barings and held by UK investors.

However, two action groups, one for preference shareholders and the other for holders of notes, or bonds, are preparing to fight back. Simon Forster, founder of the shareholders' action group, says that more than 100 investors have already signed up, with more to come.

David Harrel, a partner with SJ Berwin, the solicitor acting for the bondholders' action group, adds: "We now represent 150 bondholders with investments totalling around £50 million. We are holding a meeting next week to decide the next step."

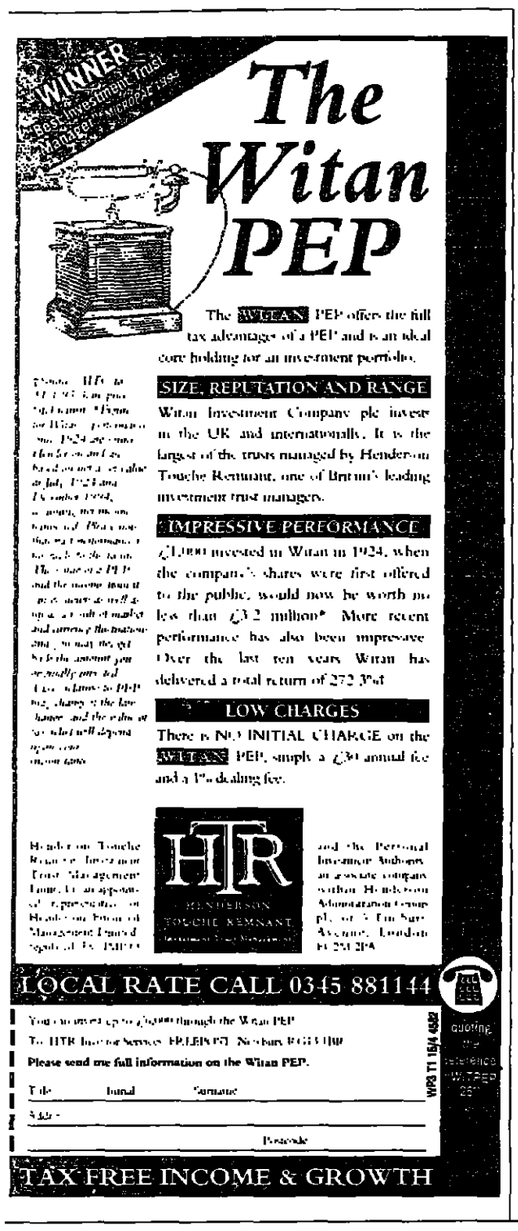
Action groups are an effective way of dealing with cases like this, while keeping the inevitable costs to manageable proportions. Both of the Barings action groups are asking members to contribute £150 to the kitty.

In their fight to achieve some sort of payout from ING, Barings investors have some powerful allies. The 32 pension funds and life companies, including Legal & General and Scottish Amicable, which were also caught out in the Barings collapse, have been co-ordinating their campaign through the Association of British Insurers.

If ING, which had nothing to do with the Barings fiasco, is not inclined to take notice of the action groups, it may well be forced to take notice of the institutions. An increasing number of them are threatening to boycott any future paper issues by ING or Barings.

Depending on the conclusions of the Bank of England's report, legal action is another option. Judging by the growing anger of both small and large investors, every avenue will be explored, making life even more difficult for Barings and its new owners.

☐ *Barings Perpetual Noteholders Action Group, c/o SJ Berwin & Co, 222 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8HB. Barings Preference Shareholders Action Group, Streathers, 40 Piccadilly, London W1.*





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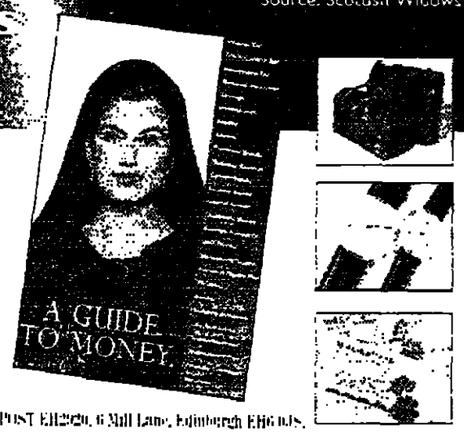
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Restitutionary claim is for damages

Friends' Provident Life Office (a firm) v Hillier Parker May & Rowden; Estates & General plc and Others, third parties

Before Lord Justice Rose, Lord Justice Saville and Lord Justice Auld

[Judgment April 3]

Persons to whom sums of money had allegedly been paid under a mistake of fact or for no consideration "would, assuming their liability to make restitution, be persons liable in respect of "damage" for the purposes of sections 1(1) and 6(1) of the Civil Liability (Contribution) Act 1978. Similar considerations applied to claims that the payees were in breach of trust by retaining the money.

When, therefore, the plaintiffs alleged that they had made overpayments under a contract in consequence of advice, given negligently and in breach of contract by the defendants, and sought damages from them equalling the alleged overpayments, the defendants' claim for contribution in third-party proceedings against the payees should not have been struck out, since a restitutionary claim by the plaintiffs against the payees would be a claim "in respect of the same damage" alleged by the plaintiffs against the defendants.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the defendants, Hillier Parker May & Rowden, against the order of Judge Havery, QC, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division or official referee's business, on February 7, 1994, striking out their third-party claims against the first and second third parties, Estates & General plc and Castle Mall Securities Ltd, as disclosing no reasonable cause of action, and dismissing the third-party proceedings as against them.

Estates & General and Castle Mall Securities, the developers, entered into an agreement with Norwich City Council and Friends' Provident for the development of a shopping centre. A finance agreement between Friends' Provident and Castle Mall provided that they were to share the development costs in unequal proportions.

Part of Hillier Parker's responsibilities, as adviser and development consultant engaged by Friends' Provident, was to check and authorise payment of Castle Mall's claims for Friends' Provident's share of the development costs.

Over a period of two and a half years, Hillier Parker checked Castle Mall's claims, which included sums for "notional interest", and Friends' Provident paid them on Hillier Parker's recommendations.

Subsequently Friends' Provident demanded from the developers repayment of most of the notional interest, totalling £6,706,378, on the ground that it was not part of the development costs under the finance agreement. Ensuing litigation between Friends' Provident and the developers was settled.

Friends' Provident then claimed damages equalling the amount of the allegedly wrongly paid interest in negligence and breach of contract from Hillier Parker.

Hillier Parker issued third party proceedings against, inter alios, the developers, claiming contribution pursuant to the 1978 Act.

Mr Michael Harvey, QC and Mr Andrew Phillips for Friends' Provident; Mr Colin Ross-Munro, QC and Miss Monica Carss-Frisk for Estates & General and Castle Mall.

LORD JUSTICE AULD, having concluded that the judge had rightly considered the question of contribution under the 1978 Act on the basis that it was arguable that Friends' Provident had a claim against the developers for repayment of the notional interest because it had been paid under a mistake of fact or for no consideration, said that the question of law, in reliance on which the judge had struck out that part of Hillier Parker's third-party claim, was one of construction of the Act.

It was whether a restitutionary claim by Friends' Provident against the developers under either head would be a claim in respect of the same "damage" alleged by Friends' Provident against Hillier Parker so as to enable Hillier Parker to claim a contribution or indemnity against the developers under section 1(1).

Section 1 of the 1978 Act, so far as material, provided:

"(1) ... any person liable in respect of any damage suffered by another person may recover contribution from any other person liable in respect of the same damage (whether jointly with him or otherwise)."

It should be read with section 6, an interpretation section, which provided:

"(1) A person is liable in respect of any damage for the purposes of this Act if the person who suffered it ... is entitled to recover compensation from him in respect of that damage (whatever the legal basis of his liability, whether tort, breach of contract, breach of trust or otherwise)."

In his Lordship's judgment, despite the distinction between a claim for restitution and one for damages, each might be a claim for compensation for damage under sections 1(1) and 6(1). The difference between asking for a particular sum of money back or for an equivalent sum of money for the damage suffered because of the withholding of it was immaterial in the statutory context, which was concerned with "compensation" for "damage".

The purpose and effect of the Act were to provide for contribution beyond that of joint tortfeasors for which section 6 of the Law Reform (Married Women and Tortfeasors) Act 1935 had previously provided.

The contribution was as to "compensation" recoverable against a person in respect of "any damage suffered by another" "whatever the basis of his liability, whether tort, breach of contract, breach of trust or otherwise".

It was difficult to imagine a broader formulation of an entitlement to contribution. It clearly spanned a variety of causes of action, forms of damage in the sense of loss of some sort, and remedies, the last of which were gathered together under the umbrella of "compensation".

As to the judge's reliance on the word "responsibility" in section 2(1) of the Act, it was a word which, in his Lordship's view, had some elasticity of meaning in the context. It might or might not, depending on the circumstances, connote some notion of breach of duty or default.

It had an obvious role when apportionment on "just and equitable" principles had to be made, but it was not to be so narrowly construed as to restrict the wide language of section 6(1).

The final words of that provision, in particular, "whatever the legal basis of his liability" and "or otherwise" made plain that it was not intended to confine the operation of section 1(1) to liability arising from breach of duty or default.

As to the judge's reliance on the special provision for debt made in section 3, an action of debt was, historically and in everyday parlance, quite distinct from a claim for compensation for damage.

It was true that a claim for restitution in quasi-contract might in some respects be close to a claim in debt because of the former's origin in indebitatus assumpsit.

In any event, for the reasons his Lordship had given, even if the judge had been right in aligning a claim for restitution in quasi-contract with an action for debt, that would not exclude it from being a claim for compensation in respect of damage in quasi-contract within the meaning of sections 1(1) and 6(1) of the 1978 Act.

Accordingly, assuming that the developers were liable to compensate Friends' Provident for payment of all or some of the notional interest because it was paid under a mistake of fact or for no consideration, section 1(1) of the Act applied to such liability.

Assuming that the developers were trustees for Friends' Provident of all or some of the notional interest and were in breach of that trust by paying the money away for its own use, or in not repaying it on demand by Friends' Provident or in asserting that they, not Friends' Provident, were entitled to it, then, subject to any successful defence of estoppel, his Lordship would hold that section 1(1) of the Act applied to a claim for restitutionary compensation based on such liability.

Lord Justice Saville and Lord Justice Rose agreed.

Solicitors: Cameron Markby Hewitt; Forsyte Kerman.

Bigamous wife cannot make relief claim

Whiston v Whiston

Before Lord Justice Russell, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Ward

[Judgment March 23]

A person who had gone through a bigamous ceremony of marriage was not entitled subsequently to pursue a claim for ancillary relief by virtue of the grant of a decree of nullity to the innocent party of the ceremony on the ground of the claimant's bigamy.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing the appeal of the respondent, Robert John Whiston, against Mr Justice Thorpe ([1994] 2 FLR 906), who had held that the petitioner, Maria Victoria Modesta Whiston, was not precluded, on the ground of public policy, from applying for ancillary relief, and had varied the order of District Judge Illsley on May 18, 1993, in Walsall County Court by reducing the award of a lump sum to the petitioner from £25,000 to £20,000. The Court of Appeal dismissed her application for a lump sum and made no award.

Mr Timothy Scott for the respondent; Miss Dorothy Seddon for the petitioner.

LORD JUSTICE WARD said that petitioner, married in 1962 while living in her home country of the Philippines, had entered into a marriage in 1973 in England with the respondent, well aware her husband in the Philippines was alive. The respondent was ignorant of that marriage.

The respondent had some inkling of the earlier marriage from conversations he had when visiting the Philippines in 1981 but the petitioner denied it when he challenged her.

The English marriage foundered in 1988, and in wardship proceedings, in which the petitioner denied the earlier marriage and swore affidavits to that effect, custody and control of the two children was awarded to the respondent.

In subsequent divorce proceedings it was found on inquiry that the first marriage existed, and the respondent successfully obtained a decree of nullity in January 1990 pursuant to section 11(b) of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973.

His Lordship said that the point raised was whether or not the doctrine of public policy, that a party did not benefit from his crime, applied, and on the maxim, ex turpi causa non oritur actio, whether the petitioner's claim was debarred.

There seemed to be little early authority on how the doctrine was applied where the right asserted was one derived from statute. In *In re Sigsworth* ([1935] Ch 89) Mr Justice Clauson had held that public policy precluded a benefit which was conferred by statute being claimed.

The Court of Appeal had considered the matter further: see *R v Chief National Insurance Commissioner, Ex parte Connor* ([1981] QB 758, 765-766), *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Puttick* ([1981] QB 767, 775) and *R v Registrar-General, Ex parte Smith* ([1991] 2 QB 393, 402).

His Lordship agreed with the conclusion of Mr Justice Thorpe that bigamy, which had clearly been committed by the petitioner although she had not been charged with the offence, was treated less seriously in the present day than in the past. However, the maximum term of imprisonment for the offence under section 57 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 was seven years.

That a bigamous woman might be treated more leniently would be her good fortune. Nevertheless, it remained an offence which could be committed by a man or a woman, and could cause injury as was found in the present case that the respondent was devastated by the knowledge of the earlier marriage.

His Lordship disagreed with the judge's view that the purpose of the offence was to protect the woman from the male bigamist. There was no reason to treat the female bigamist differently from the male bigamist.

Miss Seddon contended that because of the express provision of section 25(1)(g) of the 1973 Act the court had a duty to have regard to the conduct of the parties and therefore there was no room for the application of the doctrine of public policy.

His Lordship disagreed and said that such an argument was rejected by the Court of Appeal in *In re Rouse, decd* ([1985] Ch 22) in an application under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975, with terms very similar to the exercise of the court's discretionary powers under the 1973 Act.

There was no force in the judge's finding that it was unacceptable that a woman would not be able to assert her claim for ancillary relief because of bigamy. If she was allowed to assert a claim in such circumstances she could thereby make a claim she was not entitled to make if she had been a mere cohabitor.

It struck at the very heart of the concept of marriage if a bigamist could assert a claim she could only arrive at because of the ceremony of marriage.

There was nothing inconsistent in the 1973 Act entitling the innocent party to obtain relief in such a marriage. If a wife sincerely believed her first husband was dead she might be entitled to relief, but those were not the circumstances of the present case.

The petitioner sought to profit from a crime and the claim arose from that crime; she should not be permitted to go further.

Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Russell delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Hughmans: Clive Shepherd & Co, Walsall.

Pension shared between widows of polygamous marriage

Regina v Department of Health Ex parte Misra

Before Mr Justice Latham

[Judgment March 2]

Where two widows of a polygamous marriage had applied for a state widow's pension and a pension under the National Health Service superannuation Scheme, the decision as to the state pension was not binding in respect of the superannuation scheme but the principle and issues arising for consideration under the two schemes were not different.

Mr Jusce Latham so held in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application by Mrs S. L. Mira for judicial review of the decision of the Department of Health and Social Security, the respondent's predecessor, on October 14, 191 that the applicant's husband Dr Umesh Misra, had been married to both the applicant and his second wife. As a consequence of that decision the pension was split between both women.

The social security appeal tribunal had heard both women's claims for a state pension and had concluded, in 1989, that there had been no marriage ceremony between the deceased and his second wife and the applicant was the widow.

The DHSS had not accepted that the findings of the tribunal were binding on it but reconsidered the matter. It later confirmed its initial decision of 1986 that both women were the widows of the deceased and that the pension would therefore be divided equally between them.

Mr Rambert de Mello for the applicant; Mr Richard Drabble for the department.

MR JUSTICE LATHAM said that neither the provision under section 24 of the Social Security Act 1975 nor those under regulation 14(1) of the National Health Service (Superannuation) Regulations (SI 1980 No 362) gave any special meaning to the concept of widowhood so that, in his Lordship's view, the same principles of interpretation applied.

The decision of the tribunal was not, ipso facto, binding on the respondents in relation to the issues which it decided. It was not correct to say that different issues arose for consideration under the two different schemes.

However, it was for the respondent to evaluate the material before the tribunal and give it such weight as it thought fit, provided it was not ignored.

The decision was not perverse or irrational and proper reasons had been given for differing from the view of the tribunal; accordingly the application would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Tyndallwoods & Millichip, Birmingham; Solicitor, Department of Health.

Sender of tested Telex liable

Standard Bank London Ltd v Bank of Tokyo Ltd
Sudwestdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale v Bank of Tokyo Ltd and Another

Before Mr Justice Waller

[Judgment March 17]

Where a letter of credit had been offered fraudulently by agents within the offering bank, the accepting bank could have performance of the arrangements under the letter unless it had shown wilful blindness in failing to investigate matters.

Where a transaction between banks was wrongly confirmed by a tested Telex, that is a Telex authenticated by a secret electronic code recognisable to the intended recipient, the sender was in breach of its duty of care and liable in negligent misstatement.

Mr Justice Waller so held in the Queen's Bench Division when upholding the application of Standard Bank London Ltd for a declaration that they were entitled to performance of the Bank of Tokyo Ltd's undertakings in a letter of credit for US$5,000,000 and in allowing the application of Sudwestdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale for damages for negligent misstatement in the sums of US$4,542,977.43 and US$9,450,787.42.

The Bank of Tokyo had allowed tested Telexes to be sent out confirming that letters of credit issued by it were valid when in reality the letters of credit had been issued fraudulently and without the bank's authority by renegade conspirators within it.

Mr David Hunt, QC and Mr Mark Howard for Standard Bank London; Mr Christopher Carr, QC and Mr Jeffrey Gruder for Sudwestdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale; Mr David Donaldson, QC and Christopher Butcher for Bank of Tokyo.

MR JUSTICE WALLER said that the clearer a representation was the less likely there was to be circumstances which put anyone on inquiry as to the legitimacy of the arrangemnt and the authority of its proposers to act.

Authority showed that wilful blindness was the only basis on which knowledge of fraud was usual imputed. There should normally be want of probity rather than mere negligence in failing to investigate an offered letter of credit before the apparent offeror could say it should not meet the undertakings in the letter of credit as having been made fraudulently and without its authority.

His Lordship found that no one within Standard was put on notice that either of the transactions was fraudulent.

The plaintiffs were unable to make out a case in negligence and their submissions in that area were amply justified.

Bank of Tokyo, in being asked by Sudwest for a tested Telex, did owe them a duty of care when it sent out such Telexes. Sudwest were entitled to judgment for damages.

Solicitors: Norton Rose; Mishcon de Reya; Clifford Chance.

Name's Lloyd's income is not from trade or profession

Koenigsberger v Mellor (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Ward

[Judgment March 17]

The income received by a taxpayer from syndicates at Lloyd's of which he was an external member/name was not income derived from the carrying on by him of a trade or profession. Retirement annuity relief could not be claimed in respect of a qualifying premium paid out of that income under the provisions of sections 619 and 623 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988, formerly section 226 of ICTA 1970.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr Carl W. Koenigsberger, from Mr Justice Lindsay (*The Times* May 25, 1993; [1993] STC 408) who had upheld a determination of a special commissioner refusing a claim for the relief for the year 1987-88.

The taxpayer had paid a premium of £1,000 under an annuity contract out of income received by him from Lloyd's sydicates to which he belonged as an external member. That income was assessable to income tax under Case I of Schedule D.

The agreement he had with Lloyd's laid down that the taxpayer's appointed agent was to have sole control and management of the underwriting business. The taxpayer, after becoming a name, said that he spent some three hours each week on Lloyd's affairs.

The claim for the relief depended on whether the Lloyd's income was "relevant earnings" defined in section 623(2)(c) of the Act as "income which chargeable under Schedule B or Schedule D and is immediately derived by him from the carrying on or exercise by him of his trade, profession or vocation..."

Mr Leolin Price, QC, for the taxpayer; Mr Timothy Brennan for the Revenue.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT said that obviously the taxpayer's income as a name was derived, and immediately derived by him from the trade or business of underwriting. The question was whether the income was derived "from the carrying on by him of his trade".

An external name did not carry on any trade at all. Through the medium of his members' agent he subscribed to risks selected on behalf of each syndicate by its managing agent.

The trade out of which the taxpayer's income arose consisted of the business of underwriting, including the identification, selection, assessment, and acceptance of risks. That was the job of the managing agent. He alone decided what risks that syndicate should accept.

It was not by the members that the trade of the syndicates, namely the underwriting of insurance business, was carried on. It was true that as a member of various syndicates the taxpayer was party to every contract entered into by each of those syndicates.

But the trade out of which his profits arose was carried on not by him as an individual by for him by the managing agents of the syndicates and also by his members' agent. The taxpayer's researches that he carried out were concerned not with carrying on the business of underwriting but with deciding what aspects of the business to participate in.

The special commissioner had come to the right conclusion for the right reason and his decision, had been rightly upheld by the judge.

Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Ward agreed.

Solicitors: Rosenbergs; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Technicalities of tax law

Whitehouse v Elliam (Inspector of Taxes)

The technicalities of the capital gains tax legislation were such that a layman who did not seek professional advice could easily get lost in, lose sight of what should as a matter of common sense be evident to him.

Sir John Vinelott, sitting as a judge of the Chancery Division, so stated at the conclusion of his judgment on February 28 dismissing an appeal by a taxpayer in person, Mr Christopher Francis Whitehouse, from the decision of general commissioners for Bury St Edmunds who had held that the provisions of section 29A(1) of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979, inserted by section 90 of the Finance Act 1981, on disposals and acquisitions treated as made at market value, did not apply in the circumstances of the taxpayer's acquisition of an asset.

HIS LORDSHIP said that a layman could get so lost in the technicalities of the legislation that he would lose sight of what should be evident to him.

He should take advantage of obtaining expert advice from someone who had mastered the technicalities and who had experience in the field and who could stand back and look at the legislation and interpret it in the light of the evidence.

Human Rights Law Report — Strasbourg

Northern Cyprus property dispute leads Turkey to European Court

Loizidou v Turkey
(Case No 40/1993/435/514)

Before Mr R. Ryssdal, President and Judges R. Bernhardt, F. Gölcüklü, L.-E. Pettiti, B. Walsh, R. Macdonald, A. Spielmann, S. K. Martens, E. Palm, R. Pekkanen, A. M. Loizou, J. M. Morenilla, A. B. Baka, M. A. Lopes Rocha, L. Wildhaber, G. Mifsud Bonnici, I. Jambrek, and U. Lõhmus

Registrar: L. Petzold

[Judgment March 23]

The European Court of Human Rights held, by by a majority, that the territorial restrictions attached to Turkey's article 25 and 46 declarations were invalid in that those declarations contained valid acceptances of the competence of the Commission and Court.

It also ecided, by a unanimous vote, to join to the merits the preliminary objection that the complaint related to facts and events which occurred before the Turkish declaration of acceptance, pursuant to article 46, of the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court dated January 22, 1990 (objection ratione temporis).

Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights states:

"1 Any of the high contracting parties may at any time declare that it recognises as compulsory ipso facto and without special agreement the jurisdiction of the Court in all matters concerning the interpretation and application of the ... Convention.

"2 The declarations referred to above may be made unconditionally or on condition of reciprocity on the part of several or certain other high contracting parties or for a specified period.

"3 The declarations shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe who shall transmit copies thereof to the high contracting parties."

Turkey's article 46 declaration of January 2, 1990 provides:

"On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Turkey and acting in accordance with article 46 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, hereby declare as follows:

"The Government of the Republic of Turkey acting in accordance with article 46 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, hereby recognises as compulsory ipso facto and without special agreement the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights in all matters concerning the interpretation and application of the Convention which relate to the exercise of jurisdiction within the meaning of article 1 of the Convention, performed within the boundaries of the national territory of the Republic of Turkey, and provided further that such matters have previously been examined by the Commission within the power conferred upon it by Turkey.

"This declaration is made on condition of reciprocity, including reciprocity of obligations assumed under the Convention. It is valid for a period of three years as from the date of its deposit and extends to matters raised in respect of facts, including judgments which are based on such facts which have occurred subsequent to the date of deposit of the present declaration."

Mrs Loizidou grew up in Kyrenia in northern Cyprus, where she owned certain plots of land. In 1972 she married and moved with her husband to Nicosia. Since 1974 she claimed that she had been prevented from gaining access to the Kyrenia properties as a result of the presence of Turkish forces in Cyprus.

On March 19, 1989 a Greek Cypriot women's group, "Women Walk Home", organised a march with the announced intention of crossing the Turkish forces' cease-fire line. From Nicosia the demonstrators drove to the village of Lymbia, where a group managed to cross the buffer zone and the Turkish forces' line. Some of the women, including Mrs Loizidou, were arrested by Turkish Cypriot policemen. Later the same day, they were released to United Nations officials in Nicosia and taken over to the Greek Cypriot area.

The Turkish Government submitted, by way of preliminary objections, inter alia, that the case fell outside the Court's jurisdiction on the grounds that it related to facts and events which occurred before the Turkish declaration of acceptance of the jurisdiction of the Court under article 46 (objection ratione temporis) and did not concern matters arising within the territory covered by the declaration (objections ratione loci).

The application was lodged with the European Commission of Human Rights on July 22, 1989; it was declared admissible on March 4, 1991.

Having attempted unsuccessfully to secure a friendly settlement, the Commission drew up a report on July 8, 1993 in which it established the facts and expressed the opinion that there had been no violation of article 3 (unanimously); article 8 as regards the applicant's private life (eleven votes to two); article 5, paragraph 1, (nine votes to four); article 8 as regards the applicant's home (nine votes to four) and article 1 of Protocol No 1 (eight votes to five).

The case was referred to the Court by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus under article 48(b) of the Convention in so far as it related to the alleged interference with the applicant's property rights (article 1 of Protocol No 1 and article 8 of the Convention).

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held:

I Standing of applicant Government

The Court confined itself to noting, with reference, inter alia, to the consistent practice of the Council of Europe, that the applicant Government had been recognised by the international community as the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. Its locus standi as the Government of a high contracting party could not therefore be in doubt.

II Abuse of process

The Court observed that this objection was not raised in the proceedings before the Commission. Accordingly the Turkish Government was estopped from raising it before the Court in so far as it applied to Mrs Loizidou.

In so far as it was directed to the applicant Government, the Court noted that that Government had referred the case to the Court, inter alia, because of its concern for the rights of the applicant and other citizens in the same situation. The Court did not consider such motivation to be an abuse of its procedures.

III Turkish Government's role in the proceedings

The Court did not consider that it lay within the discretion of a contracting party to the Convention to characterise its standing in the proceedings before the Court in the manner it saw fit.

It observed that the case originated in a petition made under article 25, brought by the applicant against Turkey in her capacity as a high contracting party to the Convention and had been referred to the Court under article 48(b) by another high contracting party.

The Court therefore considered, without prejudging the remainder of the issues in the proceedings, that Turkey was the respondent party in the case.

IV Scope of the case

In the application referring the case to the Court under article 48(b), the applicant Government confined itself to seeking a ruling on the complaints under article 1 of Protocol No 1 and article 8, in so far as they had been declared admissible by the Commission concerning access to the applicant's property. Accordingly, it was only those complaints which were before the Court.

V Objections ratione loci

A Whether facts alleged by applicant were capable of falling within jurisdiction of Turkey under article 1 of the Convention

The Court emphasised that it was not called upon at the preliminary objections stage of its procedure to examine whether Turkey was actually responsible under the Convention for the acts which formed the basis of the applicant's complaints. Nor was it called upon to establish the principles that governed state responsibility under the Convention in a situation like that obtaining in the northern part of Cyprus. Such questions belonged rather to the merits phase of the Court's procedure.

The Court's inquiry was limited to determining whether the matters complained of by the applicant were capable of falling within the jurisdiction of Turkey even though they occurred outside her national territory.

The concept of "jurisdiction" under article 1 was not restricted to the national territory of the high contracting parties. Responsibility could also arise when as a consequence of military action, whether lawful or unlawful, a contracting party exercised effective control of an area outside its national territory.

It was not disputed that the applicant was prevented by Turkish troops from gaining access to her properties.

The Court concluded that the facts alleged by the applicant were capable of falling within Turkish "jurisdiction" within the meaning of article 1. Whether the matters complained of were imputable to Turkey and gave rise to state responsibility were questions which fell to be determined by the Court at the merits phase.

B Validity of territorial restrictions attached to Turkey's articles 25 and 46 declarations

The Court had regard to the special character of the Convention as a treaty for the collective enforcement of human rights and the fact that it was a living instrument to be interpreted in the light of present day conditions. In addition, the object and purpose of the Convention required that its provisions be interpreted and applied so as to make its safeguards practical and effective.

It then sought to ascertain the ordinary meaning given to articles 25 and 46 in their context and in the light of their object and purpose. Regard was also had to subsequent practice in the application of the treaty.

If substantive or territorial restrictions were permissible under articles 25 and 46, contracting parties would be free to subscribe to separate regimes of enforcement of Convention obligations depending on the scope of their acceptances.

Such a system, which would enable states to qualify their consent under the optional clauses, would not only seriously weaken the role of the Commission and Court in the discharge of their functions, but would also diminish the effectiveness of the Convention as a constitutional instrument of European public order (ordre public).

Moreover, where the Convention permitted states to limit their acceptance under article 25, there was an express stipulation to that effect, for example, article 6, paragraph 2, of Protocol No 4 and article 7, paragraph 2, of Protocol No 7).

In the Court's view, the consequences for the enforcement of the Convention and the achievement of its aims would be so far reaching that a power to that effect would have had to be expressly provided for. However, no such provision existed in either article 25 or article 46.

That approach was confirmed by the subsequent practice of contracting parties under those provisions. Since the entry into force of the Convention until the present day, almost all of the thirty parties to the Convention, apart from the respondent Government, had accepted the competence of the Commission and Court to examine complaints without restrictions ratione loci or ratione materiae.

The existence of such a uniform and consistent State practice clearly rebutted the respondent Government's arguments that restrictions attaching to article 25 and article 46 declarations must have been envisaged by the drafters of the Convention in the light of practice under article 36 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

It was not contested that article 46 of the Convention was modelled on article 36 of the Statute of the International Court which had been interpreted as allowing restrictions. However, in the Court's view, it did not follow that such restrictions on the acceptance of jurisdiction of the Court had also to be permissible under the Convention.

The fundamental difference in the role and purpose of the respective tribunals, coupled with the existence of a practice of unconditional acceptance, provided a compelling basis for distinguishing Convention practice from that of the International Court.

Finally, the Court did not accept that the application of article 63, paragraph 4, by analogy, provided support for the claim that a territorial restriction was permissible.

Taking into consideration the character of the Convention, the ordinary meaning of articles 25 and 46 in their context and in the light of their object and purpose and the practice of contracting parties, the Court concluded that the restrictions ratione loci attached to Turkey's article 25 and article 46 declarations were invalid.

C Validity of Turkish declarations under articles 25 and 46

The Court did not consider that the issue of severability of the invalid parts of Turkey's declarations could be decided by reference to the statements of her representatives expressed subsequent to the filing of the declarations.

In that connection, it observed that the respondent Government must have been aware, in view of the consistent practice of contracting parties under articles 25 and 46 to accept unconditionally the competence of the Commission and Court, that the impugned restrictive clauses were of questionable validity under the Convention system and might be deemed impermissible by the Convention organs.

The subsequent reaction of various contracting parties to the Turkish declarations provided convincing support to the above observation concerning Turkey's awareness of the legal position. That she, against that background, subsequently filed declarations under both articles 25 and 46 indicated a willingness on her part to run the risk that the limitation clauses at issue would be declared invalid by the Convention institutions without affecting the validity of the declarations themselves.

The Court examined the text of the declarations and the wording of the restrictions with a view to determining whether the impugned restrictions could be severed from the instruments of acceptance or whether they formed an integral and inseparable part of them.

It considered that the impugned restrictions could be separated from the remainder of the text leaving intact the acceptance of the optional clauses.

The Court concluded that the declarations of January 28, 1987 and January 22, 1990 under articles 25 and 46 contained valid acceptances of the competence of the Commission and Court.

VI Objection ratione temporis

The Court considered that the correct interpretation and application of the restrictions ratione temporis, in the Turkish declarations under articles 25 and 46, and the notion of continuing violations of the Convention, raised difficult legal and factual questions.

It considered that on the present state of the file it had not sufficient elements enabling it to decide those questions. Moreover, they were so closely connected to the merits of the case that they should not be decided at the present phase of the procedure. It therefore decided to join this objection to the merits.

For those reasons, the Court:

1 Dismissed unanimously the preliminary objection concerning an alleged abuse of process;

2 Held by sixteen votes to two, Judges Gölcüklü and Pettiti dissenting, that the facts alleged by the applicants were capable of falling within Turkish "jurisdiction" within the meaning of article 1 of the Convention;

3 Held by sixteen votes to two, Judges Gölcüklü and Pettiti dissenting, that the territorial restrictions attached to Turkey's article 25 and 46 contained valid acceptances of the competence of the Commission and Court;

4 Joined unanimously to the merits the preliminary objection ratione temporis.

Pick your Fantasy First XI and win £10,000

THE cricket season is underway and *The Times* game has begun with it, bigger and better than before, with the chance to win £250 a week during the season and, for the best performance of the summer, a top prize of £10,000.

In association with Company Barclaycard, the United Kingdom's leading corporate charge card, we have renewed our exclusive arrangement with the Test and County Cricket Board to present *The Times* Fantasy First XI. The great strengths of last year's game, First Class XI, have been preserved. It is up to you to select the team you think will sweep the board. Every first-class run your players score and every first-class wicket they take will count towards your total. There are no artificial additives, no handicaps, no ratings, no transfer fees, just a test of your selection skills and your eye for first-class talent.

But we have introduced some big improvements. We have simplified the rules, deepened the pool of players and introduced the chance to change your team during the season.

We have added the West Indies touring party to our list of overseas players, making the likes of Brian Lara, Jimmy Adams, Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose available for selection. We have dispensed with the captains' category and replaced the reserve system with a transfer season.

Starting on May 4, we will carry the full list of players' first-class scores and the names of the top 100 entries every Thursday, but, for the first time, we are also providing a Fantasy First XI hotline, so you can check your team's progress when it suits you.

This year, there is a new service designed to enable groups of players at home or at work to measure their selection skills against each other by forming a mini-league. You will also be able to enter an office team and try to win the Company Barclaycard League. Full details of these services will be published next week.

Our new, improved cricket game offers you the chance to celebrate the start of another season and put your selection skills to the test

The rules are simple:
1) Select five batsmen.
2) Select one all-rounder.
3) Select one wicketkeeper.
4) Select four bowlers.
5) Your Fantasy First XI must include one (and no more than one) overseas player.
6) Your Fantasy First XI must include one (and no more than one) rising star.

All players must be selected according to the categories published here (for example a player such as Graeme Hick, listed here as an all-rounder, may only be selected as an all-rounder, not as a batsman; Phillip DeFreitas is listed here as an all-rounder — he may not be selected as a bowler).

There will be a seven-day transfer season (July 12-18, when no first-class cricket is due to be played), during which you will be able to change up to four members of your team, although your final XI must still conform to the six rules above. You do not have to change your team at all, but, if you choose to, you will receive the points scored by your original selection up to July 12 and those scored by the revised selection from the moment first-class play resumes on July 18.

Apart from these transfers, no changes will be allowed. No substitutions can be made, so it is worth bearing in mind the injury records of the players available. If a player is not playing first-class cricket, then he is not scoring in the Fantasy First XI.

Scoring: you score according to the performance of your players. For every run each of your XI scores, you will receive one point. For each wicket they take, you will receive 20 points. For each dismissal (catch or *stumping*) your wicketkeeper makes, you will receive 20 points. Catches taken by other fielders will not count. The object of the game is to select the team which will score the most points in the course of the season.

In the event of a tie, the scores of the rising star will be decisive. If another tie-break is necessary, its form will be decided by *The Times* Fantasy First XI panel.

Fixtures: *The Times* Fantasy First XI season runs from April 13 until September 18 but the deadline for entries is noon, April 27. Postal entries must be received by April 27. Only first-class matches, as designated by the Test and County Cricket Board throughout the season (including those played before the closing date for entries to this competition) will count. One-day games do not count.

As last year, you can enter by phone or by post. Phone calls will be charged at 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at other times. An average call should last no more than six minutes.

Please note that postal entries must be accompanied by a fee of £2.50, and cheques should be made payable to *The Times* Fantasy First XI.

England regulars may not provide the most points

By Simon Wilde

CHOOSING a team for the Fantasy First XI competition involves many delicate decisions. If your first-choice players are affected by injuries and dramatic losses of form, there will be nothing you can do about replacing them until the transfer period arrives in mid-July. But there are ways in which you can enhance the prospects of your side from the outset.

One is to think carefully before choosing any player who might be called on regularly by England, who are involved in a Texaco Trophy series and six Cornhill Test matches against West Indies. The Texaco Trophy will deprive all the England players except those from Surrey of one first-class match for their counties — and their performances in the three one-day internationals will not, of course, count towards the Fantasy First XI game.

And, while runs scored, wickets taken and wicket-keeping dismissals accomplished in the Test matches will count, these will be all the harder to come by against the might of West Indies. Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, who have retired from international cricket and might be expected to score heavily in the less fierce environment of county cricket, could well be more productive selections than, say, Michael Atherton and Darren Gough, who will miss seven and six championship matches respectively if they play in every England international.

Other shrewd selections might be those players who spend the summer pushing to regain their England places — players, perhaps, such as Robin Smith, Andrew Caddick and Martin McCague.

Another delicate decision is the choice of overseas player. Thirteen players are listed below who are expected to be included in the West Indies tour party, which will not be announced until later this month. They offer some valuable options, such as Brian Lara, Jimmy Adams, Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose, but it should be borne in mind that the West Indians' 14 first-class matches outside the Test matches may be used partly as preparation for the internationals.

An alternative is to select one of the overseas players attached to first-class counties. Seventeen such cricketers are listed below. Surrey, the eighteenth county, having not yet confirmed their choice in the wake of Waqar Younis's injury problems.

It should be noted that a number of overseas county players will not join their teams until after the season has begun and will miss fixtures as a result. Manoj Prabhakar, who helped India win the Asia Cup in Sharjah yesterday, missed Durham's current match with Oxford University and Mark Waugh, who is touring the Caribbean with Australia, will not join Essex until May 16. By then, his county will have completed championship matches against Leicestershire and Worcestershire and a three-day fixture with Cambridge University.

Ottis Gibson, Glamorgan's nominated overseas player, will not learn until April 21 whether he will be playing for them or touring with West Indies. If he is available to Glamorgan, he will join them in time for the start of their championship campaign but will have missed the county's match against Oxford University.

Aravinda de Silva, of Kent, Mushtaq Ahmed, of Somerset, and Wasim Akram, of Lancashire, may all leave their counties early to take part in a Test series between Pakistan and Sri Lanka scheduled for September.

A number of county cricketers may be taken away from their counties to play for England Under-19, who meet their South African counterparts in two one-day internationals and three Test matches between July 1 and August 13. Most prominent among these will be Marcus Trescothick, the England Under-19 captain, who will miss three championship matches for Somerset as a result. Under-19 matches are not first-class.

Neither Tom Moody, of Worcestershire, nor Michael Bevan, of Yorkshire, will be chosen for the Australia A party that will tour England and Wales in July and August. The Australia A players will be ineligible for the game.

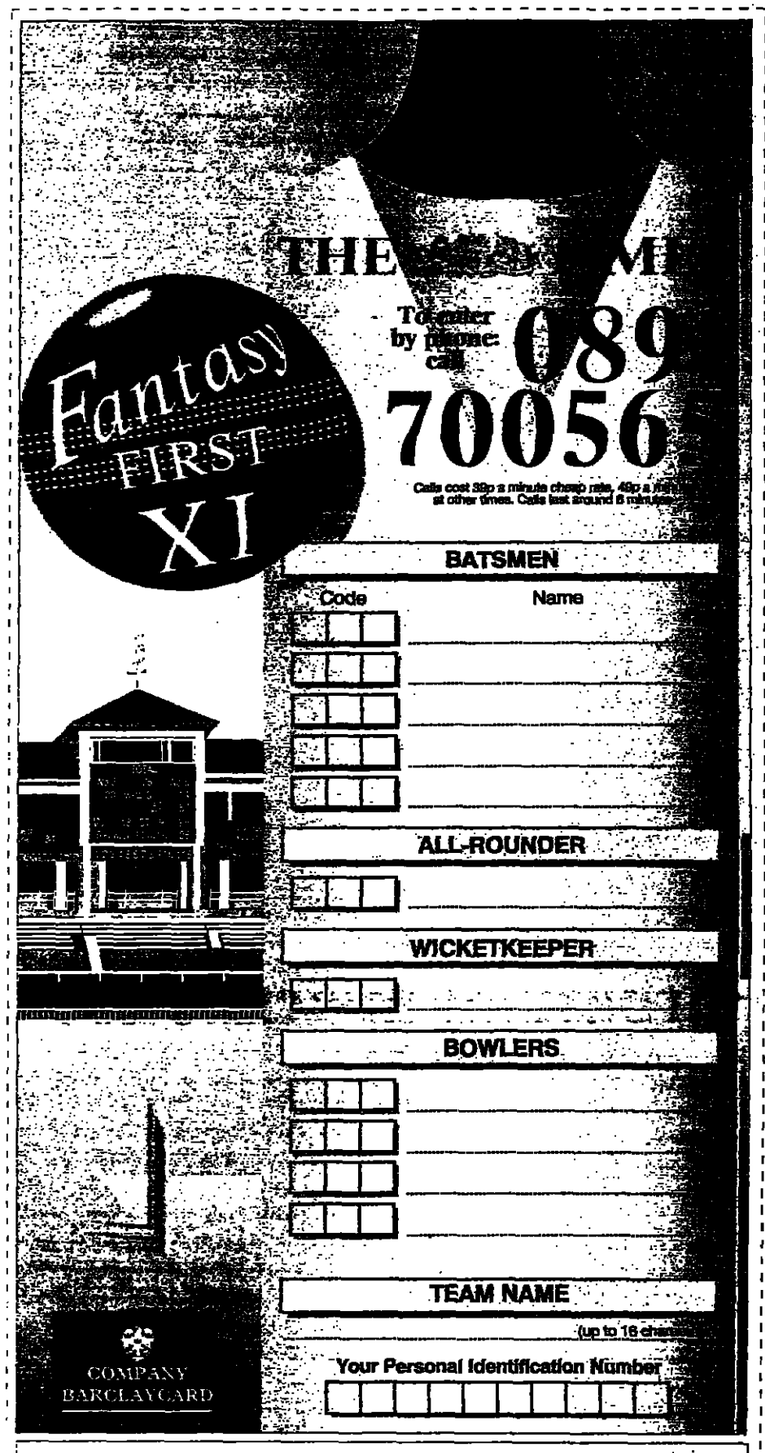
Two Oxford University players who join counties after the University match finishes on July 7 have been included: Gregor Macmillan, a batsman, will be added to Leicestershire's staff, and Richard Yeabsley will supplement Middlesex's bowling strength. Yeabsley's appearances for Oxford, though, may be restricted by examination demands.



Gooch: 1,747 runs in 1994



Munton: 81 wickets in 1994



NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

AGE IF UNDER 18..... TELEPHONE NO.....

Send your entries to: Times Fantasy First XI
Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 0NS

SELECT A TEAM TO BEAT THE BEST

There are six basic rules:
1) You must select five batsmen
2) You must select one all-rounder
3) You must select one wicketkeeper
4) You must select four bowlers
5) Your XI must include one (and no more than one) overseas player
6) Your XI must include one (and no more than one) rising star.

All players must be selected according to the categories published below. Only matches designated first-class by the TCCB will count.

(1) In this section please enter the five batsmen you have selected from the list below. You may only pick players listed (001-123) as batsmen. You may pick any number of players from any county but remember you may only select one overseas player and one rising star in your whole team. Every run your batsmen make and every wicket they take will count towards your team's total.

(2) Please enter your selected all-rounder, who must be drawn from numbers 124-185, in this section.

(3) Your wicketkeeper (from numbers 186-185) will score with each run and each catch or stumping.

(4) In this section please enter the four bowlers you have selected from the list below. You may only pick players listed (186-287) as bowlers. Again, remember you may only select one overseas player and one rising star in your whole team. Every wicket your bowlers take and every run they make will count towards your total.

SCORING

For every run each of your XI scores, you will receive one point. For each wicket they take, you will receive 20 points. For each wicketkeeping dismissal (catch or stumping) your wicketkeeper makes, you will receive 20 points. Catches taken by other fielders will not count. The object of the game is to select the team which will score the most points in the course of the season.

How to enter by phone or post

THE 24-hour telephone lines are open now and close at noon on Thursday April 27, the day the Britannic Assurance County Championship begins. Runs scored and wickets taken in the first-class games before that date will count in Fantasy First XI. But beware the last-minute rush.

When you have selected your team, check what type of telephone you are using. You must have a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are touch-tone) to enter. You cannot enter using a rotary dial or "pulse" telephone. Once you have found a Touch-tone telephone, you can enter by dialling 0891 700565.

Then follow the step-by-step instructions. The recorded message will ask you to key in the full set of selections (player reference numbers) for each of your 11 chosen players in the following order: the five batsmen, the all-rounder, the wicketkeeper, the bowlers.

Make sure you have picked one overseas player and one rising star in your team. An incorrect entry will be void.

You will then be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters) and to record your name, address and daytime phone number. Finally, you will be given a four-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN). Please be patient. You have plenty of time to make your entry. Use *The Times* Fantasy First XI bat to record your selections and your PIN.

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at other times. Each call will last about six minutes.

Competitors may give their teams any name of up to 16 characters. If a name is considered to be in poor taste by the panel, or if that name has been taken, the competitor's surname will be used.

Readers wishing to enter by post should complete their Fantasy First XI bat and send it (photocopies are not acceptable) with a cheque or postal order for £2.50 to *The Times* Fantasy First XI, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU2 0NS. Cheques should be made payable to *The Times* Fantasy First XI.

All entries, whether by telephone or post, will be acknowledged. Queries should be made direct to Abacus on 01582 457444, quoting *The Times* Fantasy First XI.

FULL LIST OF FANTASY FIRST XI PLAYERS

Batsmen (001-123)

Pick five players from this category

001 C J Adams (Derbyshire)
002 J C Adams (West Indians)
003 G F Archer (Nottinghamshire)
004 K L T Arthurton (West Indians)
005 Asif Din (Warwickshire)
006 M A Atherton (Lancashire)
007 C W J Athey (Sussex)
008 R J Bailey (Northamptonshire)
009 K J Barnett (Derbyshire)
010 M R Benson (Kent)
011 M G Bevan (Yorkshire)
012 D J Bicknell (Surrey)
013 T J Boon (Leicestershire)
014 P D Bowler (Somerset)
015 N E Briers (Leicestershire)
016 A D Brown (Surrey)
017 D Byas (Yorkshire)
018 S L Campbell (West Indians)
019 J D Carr (Middlesex)
020 S Chanderpaul (West Indians)
021 M Church (Worcestershire)
022 P A Cottey (Glamorgan)
023 G R Cowdrey (Kent)
024 J P Crawley (Lancashire)
025 W J Cronje (Leicestershire)
026 D J Cullinan (Derbyshire)
027 T S Curtis (Worcestershire)
028 J A Daley (Durham)
029 R I Dawson (Gloucestershire)
030 P A de Silva (Kent)
031 M P Dowman (Nottinghamshire)
032 N H Fairbrother (Lancashire)
033 A Fordham (Northamptonshire)
034 J E R Gallian (Lancashire)
035 M W Gatting (Middlesex)
036 G A Gooch (Essex)
037 A P Grayson (Yorkshire)
038 K Greenfield (Sussex)
039 J W Hall (Sussex)
040 T H C Hancock (Gloucestershire)
041 R J Harden (Somerset)
042 A N Hayhurst (Somerset)
043 G R Haynes (Worcestershire)
044 D L Hemp (Glamorgan)
045 G D Hodgson (Gloucestershire)
046 A J Hollioake (Surrey)
047 N Hussain (Essex)
048 * S Hutton (Durham)
049 S P James (Glamorgan)
050 P Johnson (Nottinghamshire)
051 M Keech (Hampshire)
052 S A Kellett (Yorkshire)
053 N V Knight (Warwickshire)
054 A J Lamb (Northamptonshire)
055 B C Lara (West Indians)
056 M N Lathwell (Somerset)
057 W Larkins (Durham)
058 D A Leatherdale (Worcestershire)
059 N J Lenham (Sussex)
060 J J B Lewis (Essex)
061 N J Llong (Kent)
062 G D Lloyd (Lancashire)
063 J I Longley (Durham)
064 M B Loye (Northamptonshire)
065 M A Lynch (Gloucestershire)
066 G I Macmillan (Oxford Univ and Leicestershire)
067 M P Maynard (Glamorgan)
068 A A Metcalfe (Yorkshire)
069 T C Middleton (Hampshire)
070 A J Moles (Warwickshire)
071 * R R Montgomerie (Northamptonshire)
072 T M Moody (Worcestershire)
073 H Morris (Glamorgan)
074 J E Morris (Durham)
075 R S M Morris (Hampshire)
076 M D Moxon (Yorkshire)
077 M C J Nicholas (Hampshire)
078 T J G O'Gorman (Derbyshire)
079 D P Ostler (Warwickshire)
080 B Parker (Yorkshire)
081 T L Penney (Warwickshire)
082 P R Pollard (Nottinghamshire)
083 J C Pooley (Middlesex)
084 P J Prichard (Essex)
085 M R Ramprakash (Middlesex)
086 T A Radford (Middlesex)
087 J D Ratcliffe (Surrey)
088 R B Richardson (West Indians)
089 D D J Robinson (Essex)
090 P E Robinson (Leicestershire)
091 P T Robinson (Nottinghamshire)
092 * A S Rollins (Derbyshire)
093 M A Roseberry (Durham)
094 * D Sales (Northamptonshire)
095 M Saxelby (Durham)
096 N Shahid (Surrey)
097 A Singh (Warwickshire)
098 B F Smith (Leicestershire)
099 R A Smith (Hampshire)
100 N J Speak (Lancashire)
101 M P Speight (Sussex)
102 A J Stewart (Surrey)
103 A Symonds (Gloucestershire)
104 N R Taylor (Kent)
105 V P Terry (Hampshire)
106 G P Thorpe (Surrey)
107 S P Titchard (Lancashire)
108 M E Trescothick (Somerset)
109 R G Twose (Warwickshire)
110 M P Vaughan (Yorkshire)
111 * M J Walker (Kent)
112 D M Ward (Surrey)
113 T R Ward (Kent)
114 R J Warren (Northamptonshire)
115 M E Waugh (Essex)
116 A P Wells (Sussex)
117 W P C Weston (Worcestershire)
118 G W White (Hampshire)
119 J J Whitaker (Leicestershire)
120 J P R Whitaker (Hampshire)
121 S C Williams (West Indians)
122 * M G N Windows (Gloucestershire)
123 A J Wright (Gloucestershire)

All-rounders (124-165)

Pick one player from this category

124 M W Alleyne (Gloucestershire)
125 I D Austin (Lancashire)
126 P Bainbridge (Durham)
127 * M A Butcher (Surrey)
128 C L Cairns (Nottinghamshire)
129 D G Cork (Derbyshire)
130 R D B Croft (Glamorgan)
131 K M Curran (Northamptonshire)
132 A Dale (Glamorgan)
133 P A J DeFreitas (Derbyshire)
134 * S C Ecclestone (Somerset)
135 K P Evans (Nottinghamshire)
136 M V Fleming (Kent)
137 O D Gibson (Glamorgan)
138 G A Hick (Worcestershire)
139 C L Hooper (West Indians)
140 R C Irani (Essex)
141 K D James (Hampshire)
142 S R Lampitt (Worcestershire)
143 C C Lewis (Nottinghamshire)
144 G W Mike (Nottinghamshire)
145 Mushtaq Ahmed (Somerset)
146 D J Nash (Middlesex)
147 A L Penberthy (Northamptonshire)
148 M Prabhakar (Durham)
149 D A Reeve (Warwickshire)
150 G D Rose (Somerset)
151 A W Smith (Surrey)
152 N M K Smith (Warwickshire)
153 P A Smith (Warwickshire)
154 J N Snape (Northamptonshire)
155 F D Stephenson (Sussex)
156 J P Stephenson (Hampshire)
157 C M Tolley (Worcestershire)
158 S D Udal (Hampshire)
159 Wasim Akram (Lancashire)
160 M Watkinson (Lancashire)
161 G Welch (Warwickshire)
162 C M Wells (Derbyshire)
163 V J Wells (Leicestershire)
164 P N Weekes (Middlesex)
165 C White (Yorkshire)

Wicketkeepers (166-185)

Pick one player from this category

166 A N Aymes (Hampshire)
167 R J Blakey (Yorkshire)
168 K R Brown (Middlesex)
169 M A Garnham (Essex)
170 W K Hegg (Lancashire)
171 G J Kersey (Surrey)
172 K M Krikken (Derbyshire)
173 S A Marsh (Kent)
174 C P Metson (Glamorgan)
175 P Moores (Sussex)
176 J R Murray (West Indians)
177 P A Nixon (Leicestershire)
178 W M Noon (Nottinghamshire)
179 K J Piper (Warwickshire)
180 S J Rhodes (Worcestershire)
181 D Ripley (Northamptonshire)
182 R C Russell (Gloucestershire)
183 N F Sargeant (Surrey)
184 C W Scott (Durham)
185 R J Turner (Somerset)

Bowlers (186-287)

Pick four players from this category

186 J A Afford (Nottinghamshire)
187 * U Afzaal (Nottinghamshire)
188 C E L Ambrose (West Indians)
189 S J W Andrew (Essex)
190 M C J Ball (Gloucestershire)
191 A A Barnett (Lancashire)
192 S R Barwick (Glamorgan)
193 S J Base (Derbyshire)
194 J D Batty (Somerset)
195 J E Benjamin (Surrey)
196 K C G Benjamin (West Indians)
197 W K M Benjamin (West Indians)
198 M P Bicknell (Surrey)
199 J Boiling (Durham)
200 * J N B Bovill (Hampshire)
201 J E Brinkley (Worcestershire)
202 M Broadhurst (Nottinghamshire)
203 S J E Brown (Durham)
204 A R Caddick (Somerset)
205 G Chapple (Lancashire)
206 J H Childs (Essex)
207 C A Connor (Hampshire)
208 N G B Cook (Northamptonshire)
209 K E Cooper (Gloucestershire)
210 * D M Cousins (Essex)
211 N G Cowans (Hampshire)
212 D M Cox (Durham)
213 R P Davis (Warwickshire)
214 M Dimond (Somerset)
215 A A Donald (Warwickshire)
216 M A Ealham (Kent)
217 J E Emburey (Middlesex)
218 M Feltham (Middlesex)
219 M G Field-Buss (Nottinghamshire)
220 D P J Flint (Hampshire)
221 M J Foster (Northamptonshire)
222 A R C Fraser (Middlesex)
223 E S H Giddins (Sussex)
224 D Gough (Yorkshire)
225 F A Griffith (Derbyshire)
226 P J Hartley (Yorkshire)
227 D W Headley (Kent)
228 E E Hemmings (Sussex)
229 J E Hindson (Nottinghamshire)
230 J G Hughes (Northamptonshire)
231 A P Igglesden (Kent)
232 R K Illingworth (Worcestershire)
233 M C Ilott (Essex)
234 P W Jarvis (Sussex)
235 R L Johnson (Middlesex)
236 * G Keedy (Lancashire)
237 N M Kendrick (Glamorgan)
238 A Kumble (Northamptonshire)
239 D R Law (Sussex)
240 R P Lefebvre (Glamorgan)
241 * J D Lewry (Sussex)
242 S Lugsden (Durham)
243 M J McCague (Kent)
244 D E Malcolm (Derbyshire)
245 N A Mallender (Northamptonshire)
246 P J Martin (Lancashire)
247 R J Maru (Hampshire)
248 D J Millns (Leicestershire)
249 A D Mullally (Leicestershire)
250 T A Munton (Warwickshire)
251 P J Newport (Worcestershire)
252 G J Parsons (Leicestershire)
253 M M Patel (Kent)
254 R M Pearson (Essex)
255 D B Pennett (Nottinghamshire)
256 R A Pick (Nottinghamshire)
257 A R K Pierson (Leicestershire)
258 A C S Pigott (Surrey)
259 V J Pike (Gloucestershire)
260 N V Radford (Worcestershire)
261 A R Roberts (Northamptonshire)
262 M A Robinson (Yorkshire)
263 I D K Salisbury (Sussex)
264 K J Shine (Middlesex)
265 * C E W Silverwood (Yorkshire)
266 G C Small (Warwickshire)
267 A M Smith (Gloucestershire)
268 * V Solanki (Worcestershire)
269 J Srinath (Gloucestershire)
270 H H Streak (Hampshire)
271 I G S Steer (Derbyshire)
272 R D Stemp (Yorkshire)
273 P M Such (Essex)
274 J P Taylor (Northamptonshire)
275 S D Thomas (Glamorgan)
276 M J Thursfield (Hampshire)
277 H R J Trump (Somerset)
278 P C R Tufnell (Middlesex)
279 A P van Troost (Somerset)
280 C A Walsh (West Indians)
281 A E Warner (Derbyshire)
282 S L Watkin (Glamorgan)
283 N F Williams (Essex)
284 R G Williams (Gloucestershire)
285 J Wood (Durham)
286 G Yates (Lancashire)
287 * R S Yeabsley (Oxford Univ and Middlesex)

Bold type oversees player
* rising star

You must include in your team one player from each of these two categories

Overseas players

002: J C Adams (batsman)
188: C E L Ambrose (bowler)
004: K L T Arthurton (batsman)
196: K C G Benjamin (bowler)
197: W K M Benjamin (bowler)
011: M G Bevan (batsman)
128: C L Cairns (all-rounder)
018: S L Campbell (batsman)
020: S Chanderpaul (batsman)
025: W J Cronje (batsman)
026: D J Cullinan (batsman)
090: P A de Silva (batsman)
216: A A Donald (bowler)
137: O D Gibson (all-rounder)
139: C L Hooper (all-rounder)
239: A Kumble (bowler)
055: B C Lara (batsman)
072: T M Moody (batsman)
176: J R Murray (wicketkeeper)
145: Mushtaq Ahmed (all-rounder)
146: D J Nash (all-rounder)
148: M Prabhakar (all-rounder)
068: R B Richardson (batsman)
272: J Srinath (bowler)
155: F D Stephenson (all-rounder)
273: H H Streak (bowler)
280: C A Walsh (bowler)
159: Wasim Akram (all-rounder)
115: M E Waugh (batsman)
121: S C Williams (batsman)

Rising stars

187: U Afzaal (bowler)
200: J N B Bovill (bowler)
127: M A Butcher (all-rounder)
210: D M Cousins (bowler)
134: S Ecclestone (all-rounder)
048: S Hutton (batsman)
236: G Keedy (bowler)
241: J D Lewry (bowler)
071: R R Montgomerie (batsman)
092: A S Rollins (batsman)
094: D Sales (batsman)
268: C E W Silverwood (bowler)
268: V Solanki (bowler)
111: M J Walker (batsman)
122: M G N Windows (batsman)
267: R S Yeabsley (bowler)

1. Only applications made through The Times Fantasy First XI telephone lines or on the official entry form will be accepted and must be received by the closing date.
2. They must be received by close of business on April 27, 1995. There is no limit to the number of telephone applications any person or household may make.
3. Only players published in our The Times Fantasy First XI list will be accepted. Incorrect entries null and void with no refund. No correspondence related to players selected will be entered into. Entries lost or found to be indecipherable will be void.
4. Entries must consist of 11 players from the published list and must include one overseas player and one rising star. Of your 11, five must be batsmen, one an all-rounder, one a wicketkeeper and four bowlers. No player can be picked twice.
5. The Times independent panel of experts will provide updated records of each player's performance on a regular basis.
6. Inaudible or incomplete applications will not be accepted. The computer's record of the entry will be considered to be the entry.
7. The telephone entry method is only open to readers over the age of 18.
8. The first prize will go to the team with the highest total score. If there is more than one entrant with the same total of points, the winner will be decided by tie-break. We will investigate complaints but our decision is final. No correspondence.
9. Promotional and explanatory copy relating to The Times Fantasy First XI form part of the rules and conditions for participation.
10. Calls charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at other times.
11. Calls should take approximately six minutes.
12. The competition is not open to employees of News International or their agents.

iscounts
buyers

Cup defeat strengthens resolve to strip prize from Bath's grasp

Leicester prepare to complete their advance on title

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

TWO years ago, as his players exulted in winning the Pilkington Cup, Ian Smith spoke of developing a Leicester team for the Nineties that would match — if not overtake — Bath's domination of the Eighties. That year, Bath won the Courage Clubs Championship for the third successive year, with Leicester third; last season, Bath won their fourth successive league title, with Leicester second.

Today, the two giants of English rugby stand in the same positions, though separated only on points difference. It has been thus since September, when Bath overtook Wasps at the top of the first division — Leicester came through to lead for three weeks in October, when they also achieved a slightly fortuitous 30-20 draw at Bath, but the champions resumed normal service by the halfway stage.

There have been intimations of mortality, never more than in March, when two drawn league games were followed by the one-point defeat by Wasps that allowed Leicester a brief resumption of first place. Now comes the head-to-head at Welford Road. How curious, not to say anticlimactic, it would be were the two clubs to draw again and Wasps, the darkest of horses, won against Bristol to indicate that their interest in the league is far from over.

All along, though, Leicester (and, to a lesser degree, Wasps) have been bridesmaids to Bath's bride. The words of Smith may have rung a trifle hollow were it not for the holistic view that Leicester's coach takes.

"We have developed since 1993," Smith said. "It's not so much the winning of trophies by which you judge success. As a coach, I judge it by the way the players have improved and the well-being of the club."

In an age that takes trophies to be the measure of success, it has become fashionable to sneer at such sentiments and it is possible that his players do not yet share Smith's mature view, but no other club has advanced so uniformly on all fronts over the last decade as Leicester, on and off the field — as they continue to do in concert with Bath by driving forward plans for a European club tournament, by sustaining their ground development and by fostering the interests of both their players and nearly 12,000 members.

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath	15	11	3	1	314	177	25
Leicester	15	12	1	2	332	205	25
Wasps	15	11	1	3	377	254	23
Sale	15	8	2	7	282	287	14
Bristol	15	7	0	8	271	292	14
Orrell	15	5	3	7	178	231	13
Gloucester	15	5	1	9	224	252	11
Harlequins	15	4	1	10	200	296	9
W Hartlepl	15	4	1	10	260	362	9
Northampn	15	4	0	11	214	298	8

"The players like to see trophies, whether it be league titles, cups or caps," Smith said. "We set what we believe are realistic targets; this season, it was the double of league and cup. Falling by the way in the cup has hardened everyone's resolve to make sure we don't in the league. Losing the cup semi-final may have been a bitter pill to swallow, but it will stand us in good stead."

Neither Bath nor Leicester have played rugby of consistent quality throughout a season that has been disrupted by international demands and the integration of newcomers, yet here they stand in pole position and strong enough to make unenforced changes for a crucial match: Leicester prefer Richie Robinson to Dicson Edwards at centre, Bath opt for Steve Ojomoh ahead of Andy Robinson at open-side flanker.

The clear inference of Bath's move is that they wish to set their big back row at Leicester's smaller men. Smith is forthright in his opinion on Andy Robinson's omission. "As a player, I respected him immensely, he has the ability to disrupt and create that few open-sides can match, but clearly they have gone for the big men to see if they can smash Leicester into submission," he said. "We have to make our tackles before they get the roll on and you can bet that one blond midget will be leading the way."

The midget, of course, is Neil Back, one of 13 World Cup-squad players on the field. Significantly, he has beside him Dean Richards, returning after the rib cartilage injury suffered in the Calcutta Cup match last month and a man who does not submit easily to any opponent.

"Beating Bath remains the most difficult task in the English season," Richards said, and the danger remains for both clubs that, whoever wins today may deem the league title to be as good as settled.

With a fortnight still to go, Bath have to play Harlequins and Sale (without de Glanville and Ubogu, whose permitted two games are up today, and their unavailable Scottish contingent), while Leicester meet Sale and Bristol. Nevertheless, you could be forgiven for thinking that the victors today will have one hand, at least, upon the title.


ALAN COZZI

Ojomoh will give Bath the opportunity to increase the physical pressure on Leicester

Walker looks to Barbarians match to prove fitness

BY DAVID HANDS

WHERE once the Easter programme was cluttered with holiday games, now the grim intensity of league fixtures fills the air. Only the rump remains today, but, in the shape of Cardiff — the Heineken League champions elect — and the Barbarians it is still some rump.

With the title all but assured, Cardiff will seek to turn on the quality while Nigel Walker will seek only to turn out on the wing, thus proving to the Wales selectors that he is fit for World Cup duty. The national squad will be confirmed on Tuesday, after the two-day training camp this weekend when Ricky Evans will also hope to have put himself back into the frame.

Evans, the Llanelli prop who broke a leg playing against France in January, hopes to train with Wales and appear for his club in the Swalec Cup semi-final against Pontypridd next weekend. "There is certainly no problem with my fitness levels," Evans, 34, said. "I felt I coped with [last week's] two sessions very well."

Llanelli are buoyant after their successful appeal against the deduction of two points at the start of the season after they fielded an overlarge squad. It lifts them only one place in the first division, to sixth, but puts them in good heart for the game with Pontypridd: if only Newport, in the basement, could say the same.

Missing Gareth Rees (touring in New Zealand with Canada) and Byron Hayward (foot injury), they are short at stand-off half for the derby game with Pontypool. Should Pontypool fail to win, they are doomed, while either of two other Gwent clubs, Newport or Abertillery, could yet join them in the second division.

One relegation place in the Courage Clubs Championship in England remains to be resolved, too. Northampton field their three international forwards at Gloucester while Harlequins take their England players to Orrell, where they have never won in the league. West Hartlepool, like Harlequins, one point only ahead of Northampton, restore Mitchell, Whitaker and Stimpson to their XV against Sale.

Tim Horan, of Australia, whose knee was wrecked playing for Queensland against Natal last May, is to play two club games and a representative match against the touring Argentinians in the hope of reclaiming his midfield berth in the national side in time for the World Cup. "He is going to run it close," Bob Dwyer, the Australia coach, said.

South Africa, who open the tournament against Australia on May 25, disposed of Western Samoa on Thursday night by 60-8 in Johannesburg. Gavin Johnson, the Transvaal full back, collected 28 points.

☐ England schoolboys, having beaten Scotland and Wales, take on the third leg of their attempt at successive grand slams without Geoff Wappett, their injured captain. James Cockle will lead them against Irish Schools in Galway today.

Television may channel energy to rugby union



Gerald Davies ponders challenges that must be overcome after the upheavals in rugby league

For anyone in Australia during the past couple of weeks, the campaign to win the television rights to broadcast rugby league was compelling and instructive. War, famine and other catastrophies were blithely relegated down the list of priorities as the saga stole the headline news.

Television and sport make an addictive cocktail, but, in this case, television was no mere guide for the armchair viewer. If winning the rugby league contract was the original motivation, nothing less than a battle for the life and soul of the game became the ultimate ambition.

Stepping out of the arena, bare-fisted and defiant, two television companies became the prime movers in wishing to shape and, in their minds, to invigorate the future of the sport. Television is a pervasive influence and its financial capacity is persuasive. So much so that the ruling body of the sport, the Australian Rugby League (ARL), was effectively left on the sidelines.

The proposal for a Super League had repercussions beyond the confines of rugby league. Rugby union's immediate fears, of course, were of mass defections from its own playing ranks once the World Cup is over. The Australian players have their contractual obligations to their own union until then.

In New Zealand, where the Auckland Warriors were formed three years ago, the competition from rugby league is now a real threat. However, Auckland have not won a game this season, so that the crowds of between 20,000 and 35,000 that they have enjoyed may diminish. Thoughts of the Super League and the possible injection of new players may revive any flagging support.

The Super League is a boldly attractive concept, which, by incorporating clubs from other countries in a grand finale, will give a global perspective to a sport that encompasses only a small base of participation.

What if, for instance, Australia's rugby league experience were to be repeated in rugby union? Rugby union is not at ease with itself. The debate over amateurism, despite everyone's best intentions, remains unresolved. The International Rugby Football Board meeting in August to consider this matter further is already seen as being too late.

There is not only the difference of opinion between the northern and southern hemispheres, but also dissension among the home unions, that caused tempers to be lost over the distribution of fees during the bids for the four home unions' television contract last year.

Furthermore, the bids for the 1999 World Cup represented a period of unseemly squabbling and politicking. The days of the old gentlemanly handshake were gone. Both sets of negotiations indicated a growing greed and selfishness.

Then, there are the laws of the game, which are thought to be too esoteric for general consumption. In the television age that the ruling bodies want to embrace, these laws are in need of simplification. Interpretation is too diverse.

Closer to home, clubs are disappointed with their own unions and have begun acting independently in an attempt to pursue the possibilities of a competition based either on an Anglo-Welsh structure or one which encompasses most of Europe. The ruling bodies, in their public pronouncements, have kicked the ideas to touch. They may soon find that they cannot ignore them.

Meanwhile, in the southern hemisphere, the idea of a competition to include the best of Australian and of New Zealand provinces is actively being pursued. The latter, because of the distances involved, are not enamoured of the Super 10 series. They also want something more sustaining and substantial to counter the continuous threat from rugby league.

Might not the catalyst for change, as in rugby league, be a cable or satellite television operator and not the governing unions? Super leagues, with paid professional players, will be expensive. Only television can provide the huge finances necessary.

Unlike Courage and Heineken, which cannot properly quantify the return they receive on their sponsorship money to the English and Welsh leagues, television has the potential to recover its investment from sponsorship, advertising, pay-per view or pay-per channel. Television might even usurp the authority of the international board, too, and modify the laws so as to be more television-friendly.

These thoughts may appear on the extreme shores of probability, but are they really so wildly inconceivable? The ARL might care to answer that.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*
pools coupons numbers in brackets

FA Carling Premiership
(1) Arsenal v Ipswich
(2) Chelsea v Aston Villa
(3) Coventry v Shefd Wed
(4) Leeds v Blackburn
(5) * Leicester v Man Utd
(6) * Southampton v QPR

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
(5) Barnsley v Portsmouth
(6) Burnley v Derby
(7) Charlton v Wolverhampton
(8) Notts County v Middlesbrough
(9) Oldham v Grimsby
(10) Reading v Port Vale
(11) Sheffield Utd v Swindon
(12) Stoke v Bristol City
(13) Sunderland v Luton
(14) West Bromwich A v Southend

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	41	22	9	10	61	35	75
Tranmere	41	22	8	11	64	44	74
Bolton	41	20	12	9	62	38	72
Wolves	41	20	9	12	69	52	69
Reading	41	19	9	13	48	38	66
Barnsley	40	18	10	12	57	45	64
Shef Utd	41	16	14	11	64	46	62
Derby	41	17	11	13	58	44	62
Watford	41	16	13	12	46	42	61
Grimsby	41	15	13	13	58	52	58
Luton	41	15	12	14	57	58	57
Millwall	42	15	12	15	55	55	57
Oldham	40	14	11	15	53	54	53
Charlton	40	14	10	16	51	57	52
Southend	41	14	8	19	45	68	50
West Brom	41	14	8	19	42	53	50
Stoke	40	12	14	14	38	45	50
Port Vale	41	13	10	18	51	59	49
Portsmouth	41	12	12	17	46	59	48
Sunderland	41	11	15	15	36	40	48
Swindon	40	11	10	19	48	66	43
Burnley	41	10	11	20	43	68	41
Bristol City	41	10	11	20	38	57	41
Notts County	40	8	10	22	42	58	34

Second division
(15) Birmingham v Cardiff
(16) Brentford v Chester
(17) Bristol Rovers v Plymouth
(18) Crewe v Bournemouth
(19) Hull v Bradford
(20) Peterborough v Wrexham
(21) * Rotherham v Huddersfield
(22) Shrewsbury v Brighton
(23) Stockport v Blackpool
(24) Swansea v Leyton Orient
(25) Wycombe v Oxford Utd
(26) York v Cambridge Utd

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Huddersfield	41	22	12	7	74	42	78
Brentford	40	23	8	9	73	32	77
Birmingham	39	21	12	6	72	30	75
Bristol Rovers	41	19	15	7	64	36	72
Oxford Utd	41	19	11	11	61	48	68
Wycombe	41	18	14	9	65	42	68
Crewe	39	20	6	13	69	63	66
York	41	18	8	15	57	48	62
Swansea	40	16	14	10	51	40	62
Blackpool	41	17	10	14	60	59	61
Hull	40	17	10	13	58	50	61
Bradford	41	16	11	14	57	57	59
Stockport	41	17	7	17	57	55	58
Wrexham	41	14	15	12	61	59	57
Brighton	41	13	14	14	48	46	53
Peterborough	41	12	16	13	50	56	52
Rotherham	41	12	13	16	52	57	49
Shrewsbury	41	11	13	17	46	54	46
Cambridge Utd	41	9	14	18	49	65	41
Bournemouth	41	10	11	20	42	65	41
Plymouth	40	10	8	22	37	73	38
Cardiff	41	9	10	22	44	67	37
Leyton Orient	41	6	8	27	30	68	26
Chester	41	4	10	27	33	79	22

Third division
(27) Bury v Carlisle
(28) Chesterfield v Northampton
(29) Colchester v Fulham
(30) Darlington v Lincoln
(31) Exeter v Hereford
(32) Gillingham v Barnet
(33) Hartlepool v Torquay
(34) Mansfield v Scarborough
(35) Preston v Wigan
(36) Scunthorpe v Doncaster
(37) Walsall v Rochdale

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlisle	37	25	10	2	63	24	85
Chesterfield	37	20	11	6	52	32	71
Walsall	36	20	9	7	66	37	69
Bury	36	18	10	8	58	35	64
Mansfield	37	17	8	12	78	51	59
Preston	37	16	10	11	52	38	58
Scunthorpe	37	16	7	14	58	51	55
Doncaster	37	15	10	12	47	33	55
Barnet	37	14	11	12	48	51	53
Colchester	37	15	8	14	47	56	53
Fulham	37	13	13	11	50	48	52
Wigan	37	13	10	14	50	51	49
Lincoln	37	13	9	15	46	47	48
Torquay	37	12	10	15	47	53	46
Rochdale	36	11	12	13	42	56	45
Hereford	37	11	10	16	41	55	43
Northampton	37	8	13	16	39	55	37
Darlington	37	10	7	20	37	51	37
Gillingham	37	8	10	19	39	57	34
Hartlepool	37	8	9	20	34	63	33
Exeter	37	8	6	21	33	64	30
Scarborough	36	7	9	20	41	59	30

Vauxhall Conference
(—) Bromsgrove v Dover
(—) Halifax v Telford
(—) Kettering v Gateshead
(—) Macclesfield v Runcorn
(—) Nantwich v Farnborough
(—) Stafford v Altrincham
(—) Stalybridge v Southport
(—) Stevenage v Merthyr

Beazer Homes League
Premier division
(—) Burton v Grasley
(—) Cambridge City v Sudbury
(—) Corby v Leek
(—) Gloucester v Dorchester
(38) Gravesend and Northft v Crawley
(39) Hastings v Sittingbourne
(40) Solihull v Atherstone
(—) Trowbridge v Cheltenham
(—) VS Rugby v Halesowen
(41) Worcester v Hednesford

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
(42) Aberdeen v Celtic
(43) Dundee Utd v Kilmarnock
(44) Falkirk v Motherwell
(45) Hearts v Partick

First division
(46) Ayr v Clydebank
(47) Hamilton v Dundee
(48) Raith v Airdrie
(49) St Johnstone v Dunfermline
(50) St Mirren v Stranraer

Second division
(51) Clyde v Greenock Morton
(52) Dumbarton v East Fife
(53) Meadowbank v Berwick
(54) Queen of South v Stenhousemuir
(55) Stirling v Brechin

Third division
(56) Albion v Arbroath
(at Cliftonville Stadium, Albion)
(57) Cowdenbeath v Caley This
(58) Montrose v Alloa
(—) Queen's Park v East Stirling
(—) Ross County v Forfar

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Semi-final, second leg: Hyde (0) v Kidderminster (2), Woking (0) v Rushden and Diamonds (1).

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Baldock v Bashtree; Bury Town v Erith and Belvedere; Clevedon v Yate; Fisher 93 v Ashford; Poole v Bashley; Salisbury v Weston-super-Mare; Tonbridge AFC v Margate; Waterlooville v Fareham; Wealdstone v Havant; Weymouth v Newport IoW; Witney v Burnham. Midland division: Armitage v Hinckley Town; Bilston v Bridgnorth, Dudley Town v Newport AFC, Forest Green v Sourbridge; Grantham v Ilkeston; Leicester United v Bedworth; Nuneaton v Evesham; RC Warwick v Buckingham Town; Redditch v Moor Green; Retford v King's Lynn; Sutton Coldfield v Tamworth.

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v St Albans; Bromley v Walton and Hersham; Carshalton v Chesham; Enfield v Grays; Harrow v Hendon; Hayes v Sutton United; Kingstonian v Bishop's Stortford; Molesey v Marlow; Purfleet v Dulwich; Wokingham v Yeading. First division: Barking v Whyteleafe; Basingstoke v Boreham Wood; Berkhamsted v Wembley; Dorking v Abingdon Town; Newbury v Haybridge Swifts; Ruislip Manor v Billericay; Staines v Leyton; Tooting and Mitcham v Maidenhead; Uxbridge v Bognor Regis; Wivenhoe v Chertsey; Worthing v Aldershot Town. Second division: Banstead v Barton; Bracknell v Leatherhead; Chalfont St Peter v Egham; Chesham v Metropolitan Police; Croydon v Sutton Walden; Edgware v Hungerford; Hampton v Aveley; Thame v Malden Vale; Tilbury v Hemel Hempstead; Windsor and Eton v Ware; Witham v Oxford City. Third division: Clapton v Colter Row; Cove v Canvey Island; East Thurrock v Harlow; Feltham and Hounslow v Lewes; Flackwell Heath v Kingsbury; Harefield v Epsom and Ewell; Hertford v Bedford Town; Horsham v Camberley; Tring v Southall.

UMBRO LEAGUE: Premier division: Barrow v Knowsley; Boston v Witton; Buxton v Bishop Auckland; Colwyn Bay v Gainsborough; Droylsden v Winsford; Emley v Frickley; Guiseley v Matlock; Horwich v Accrington Stanley; Marine v Chorley; Whitley Bay v Morecambe. First division: Ashton United v Congleton; Atherton LR v Bamber Bridge; Blyth Spartans v Curzon Ashton; Caernarfon v Fleetwood; Eastwood Town v Radcliffe; Great Harwood v Mossley; Harrogate Town v Goole; Lancaster v Farsley Celtic; Netherfield v Warrington; Workington v Gretna; Worksop v Alfreton.

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Mold; Afan Lido v Newtown (2.30); Flint Town v Caersws; Holywell v Barry; Inter Cardiff v Connah's Quay (at Maesteg Park FC); Llanelli v Bangor City; Llansantffraid v Maesteg Park; Rhyl v Cwmbran (2.30); Ton Pentre v Porthmadog.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Basildon v Burnham Ramblers; Concord v Romford; East Ham v Ford; Eton Manor v Bowers; Hullbridge Sports v Maldon; Sawbridgeworth v Great Wakering Rovers; Southend Manor v Stanstead.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside v Hillingdon; Bessonsfield Sycob v St Margaretsbury; Cockfosters v Brimsdown, Hanwell v Waltham Abbey; Haringey v Croydon; Tower Hamlets v Corinthian-Casuals; Walthamstow Pennant v Willesden.

PARASOL COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Godalming and Guildford v Cobham; Horley Wintney v Mensfhem; Horley v Ash, Netherne v Sandhurst; DCA Basingstoke v Cranleigh, Farnham v Viking Sports. Challenge Vase: Second round: Westfield v Peppard.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Buckingham Athletic v Brache Sparta; Dunstable v Letchworth Garden City; Hoddesdon v Royston, Potters Bar v Welwyn Garden City, Shillington v Milton Keynes. O'Brien Butchers Trophy: Semi-finals, first leg: Langford v Biggleswade, Arlesey Town v Tottenhoe.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bridport v Odd Down; Mangotsfield v Liskeard; Saltash v Westbury.

UMBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Barrow v Knowsley; Boston v Witton; Buxton v Bishop Auckland; Colwyn Bay v Gainsborough; Droylsden v Winsford; Emley v Frickley; Guiseley v Matlock; Horwich v Accrington Stanley; Marine v Chorley; Whitley Bay v Morecambe. First division: Ashton United v Congleton; Atherton LR v Bamber Bridge; Blyth Spartans v Curzon Ashton; Caernarfon v Fleetwood; Eastwood Town v Radcliffe; Great Harwood v Mossley; Harrogate Town v Goole; Lancaster v Farsley Celtic; Netherfield v Warrington; Workington v Gretna; Worksop v Alfreton.

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JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Halstead v Newmarket; Histon v Felixstowe; Lowestoft v Harwich and Parkeston, March v Diss; Soham v Stowmarket; Tiptree v Great Yarmouth, Watton v Chatteris; Wisbech v Hadleigh U; Wroxham v Woodbridge.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton v Thatcham; Bemerton Heath v East Cowes; Bournemouth v Andover; Brockenhurst v Downton; Cowes Sports v Aerostructures; Eastleigh v Christchurch; Fleet v Horndean; Gosport v Swanage and Herston, Petersfield v BAT; Ryde Sports v Lymington; Wimborne v Portsmouth.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Pagham v Burgess Hill, Peacehaven/Telscombe v Oakwood, Portfield v Langney Sports, Ringmer v Shoreham, Stamco v Arundel; Whitehawk v East Grinstead; Wick v Eastbourne Town.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Chatham; Corinthian v Canterbury; Crockenhill v Slade Green; Faversham v Dartrith Heathside; Furness v Sheppey; Greenwich v Kent Police; Ramsgate v Cray; Thamesmead v Herne Bay; Tunbridge Wells v Dartford.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Brackley v Abingdon, Cirencester v Shortwood; Fairford v Highworth; Kintbury v Tuffley; North Leigh v Banbury. Premier division cup: Semi-final, second leg: Swindon Supermarine v Bicester.

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne v Stotfold; Cogenhoe v Spalding, Holbeach v Raunds; Kempston v Eynesbury; Long Buckby v Boston, Potton v Northampton Spencer; Wellingborough v Mirrlees Blackstone, Wootton v Newport Pagnell.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Boldmere St Michaels v Shepshed D, Bolehall Swifts v Knypersley; Brierley Hill v Pegasus Halesowen Harr v Barwell; Hinckley Athletic v Chasetown; Pershore v Rocester; Rushall v Sandwell; Shifnal v Stratford, Stapenhill v Willenhall; West Midlands Police v Oldbury.

SKOL MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch Villa v Highgate, Arsenal v Knowle; Meir KA v Otton Royale, Sherwood Celtic v Chelmsley; Shirley v Bloxwich; Studley BKL v Northfield; Wellesbourne v Kings Heath; West Midland Fire Service v Handsworth Timbers.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier Division: Bilston v Lye; Blakwich v Gornal, Darlaston FC v Ludlow; Ettingshall v Westfields, Malvern v Tividale FC; Pelsall Villa v Marsden; Walsall Wood FC v Blakenall; Wednesfield v Hill Top.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare v Ossett Albion; Belper Town v Glasshoughton Wel; Brigg v Pontefract Collieries; Hallam v Hucknall; Liversedge v Sheffield; Maltby MW v Lincoln United, Ossett Town v Ashfield, Pickering v North Ferriby; Stocksbridge PS v Arnold; Thackley v Denaby.

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bacup v Newcastle Town; Blackpool Rovers v Nantwich; Bradford Park Avenue v Prescot; Clitheroe v Trafford; Darwen v Chadderton, Eastwood H v Glossop North End; Kidsgrove v Holker Old Boys, Rossendale v St Helens; Salford v Burscough; Skelmersdale v Maine Road.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington Terriers v RTM Newcastle; Billingham v Northallerton, Chester-le-Street v Seaham Red Star; Ferryhill v Consett; Murton v Dunston FB.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: West Ham v Crystal Palace (2.0).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ards v Crusaders; Bangor v Carrick; Clitonville v Omagh; Glenavon v Ballyclare, Glentoran v Distillery; Linfield v Coleraine; Newry v Larne, Portadown v Ballymena.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Gillingham v Tottenham, Leyton Orient v Chelsea. Second division: Oxford Utd v Wimbledon.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: East Barnet OG v South Bank; Old Esthamesians v Old Latymerians; West Wickham v NatWest Bank. Second division: Old Parmiterians v Old Parkonians, Old Westminster Citizens v Carshalton. Third division: Old Lyonian v Old Sidcupians.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Nottsborough v St Mary's College Senior two: Corinthian-Casuals v Ealing Association, Hale End Athletic v Duncombe Sports; Old Beaconians v Old Finchleians.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Clapham v Old Danes. Senior first: Old Isleworthians v Old Tenisonians Res. Senior second: Old Manorians v Old Meadonians Res.

CRICKET

University matches
11.0 to 6.0, final day of three
FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Yorkshire
THE PARKS: Oxford University v Durham

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Saddleworth v Wigston (2.30), West Hull v Egremont (2.30), Wigan St Patricks v Haworth (2.30).

ICE HOCKEY

WEMBLEY: British League: Championship play-offs: Semi-finals: Sheffield v Cardiff (1.0); Edinburgh v Nottingham (6.0).

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
Courage Clubs Championship
First division
Gloucester v Northampton
Leicester v Bath (2.30)
Orrell v Harlequins
Wasps v Bristol
West Hartlepool v Sale
Second division
Fylde v Coventry
London Irish v Wakefield
London Scottish v Nottingham
Saracens v Newcastle Gosforth
Waterloo v Moseley
Third division
Blackheath v Richmond
Exeter v Clifton
Harrogate v Bedford
Morley v Rosslyn Park
Rugby v Otley
Fourth division
Askeans v Havant
Broughton Park v Rotherham
Liverpool St Helens v Reading
Plymouth v Aspatria
Redruth v Leeds
Fifth division north
Winnington Park v Kendal
Heineken League
First division
Aberlillery v Dunvant (2.30)
Bridgend v Treorchy (2.30)
Neath v Swansea (2.30)
Newport v Pontypool (2.30)
Pontypridd v Llanelli (2.30)
Second division
Aberavon v Narberth (2.30)
Bonymaen v Cross Keys (2.30)
Ebbw Vale v Abercynon (2.30)
Llandovery v Llanharan (2.30)
South Wales Police v Maesteg (2.30)
Tenby Utd v Penarth (2.30)
THIRD DIVISION: Aberavon Quins v Ebbw, Blackwood v Caerphilly; Bullth Wells v Tredegar, Ferndg Hill v Glamorgan Wanderers, Mountain Ash v Ystradgynlais, Tondu v Pontypool United

Club matches
Berry Hill v Matson
Cardiff v Barbarians (2.30)
High Wycombe v Bracknell
London Welsh v Nuneaton
Lydney v Hereford
Weston-super-Mare v Towcestrians
Wharfedale v Bradford and Bingley
Representative match
Scotland under-21 v Italy under-21 (at Bridgehaugh, Stirling).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser Championship play-off: Quarter-final, third leg: Thames Valley v Worthing (8.0)
CYCLING: Southgate CC (10 miles, Little Paxton, 4.0), Trowbridge CC (10 miles, Devizes, 2.0), Portsmouth (track meeting (Mountbatten Centre, 2.0).
HOCKEY: Festivals: Blackpool, Brean, Canterbury, Folkestone International, Monkstown (Centenary), Torbay, Trojans, Weymouth.
SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield).
SPEEDWAY: (7.0): Premier League: Bradford v Swindon; Coventry v King's Lynn, Cradley Heath v Reading; British Academy Challenge: Berwick v Cleveland
SWIMMING: Five nations' championship (Edinburgh)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Rangers v Hibernian
GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Tiverton v Calne (5.30).
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Tow Law v Shildon.
BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Bohemians v Shelbourne (3.15); Cobh Ramblers v Derry, Monaghan v Shamrock (2.30).
FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National League: Croydon v Leasowe Pacific, Doncaster Belles v Arsenal; Millwall Lionesses v Liverpool FC Ladies. Southern division: Brighton and Hove v Oxford Utd.

RUGBY UNION

Representative match
London and SE Emerging Players v Northern Transvaal under-21 (at Basingstoke, 3.0).

ICE HOCKEY

WEMBLEY: British League: Championship: Final (2.0).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser Championship play-off: Quarter-finals, third leg: Sheffield v Birmingham (6.15).
CYCLING: BCF International track meeting (Manchester, 1.0); Mid Shropshire 50km (Preas, 9.0); Unity CC 25 miles (Witham, 6.30).
HOCKEY: Festivals: Blackpool, Brean, Canterbury, Folkestone International, Monkstown (Centenary), Torbay, Trojans, Weymouth. Women's Welsh League: Llanfair v Swansea.
SNOOKER: Embassy world championships (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield).
SPEEDWAY: World championship, British semi-final (Eastbourne, 3.30). British Academy: Mildenhall v Stoke (3.30). British Academy Challenge: Linlithgow v Buxton (1.30).
SWIMMING: Five nations' championship (Edinburgh).

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Steelers primed to take revenge

BY NORMAN DE M

Loder has hallmark of a champion

A century which began with Major Eustace Loder breeding and owning Pretty Polly, one of the greatest fillies to grace the British Turf and, more recently, witnessed the exploits of Marwell and Marling, both carrying the colours of Edmund Loder, could draw to a close with a champion of a different kind for the distinguished racing family.

Few trainers in recent times have made such a dramatic impact on the Flat scene as David Loder, after his decision to take out a licence in the autumn of 1992. If the handler, 31, maintains his present rate of progression it will be a question of when, not if, he becomes champion trainer.

Having opened his account in a listed race at Newmarket in the closing days of the 1992 campaign, his first full season saw him send out 45 winners in Britain, including a group winner at Ascot. Last year 39

TRAINER'S TIPS

Two-year-old
BLUE DUSTER
Three-year-old
VERZEN
Older horse
OVERBURY

domestic winners were supplemented by victories in the American Derby at Arlington and a group one race in Italy.

The increasing emphasis on contesting better races was reflected in total prize-money close to £1 million. With four winners from only five runners this year, he is just seven short of his first century and boasts a career strike rate here of 25 per cent.

Not surprisingly, his talents are in increasing demand. Sheikh Mohammed was among the first to recognise his ability, inviting Loder to the Keeneland Sales while he was still assistant to Geoff Wragg. Dubai's crown prince has doubled his yearling intake every year and only space limitations at Sefton Lodge stables in Newmarket's Bury Road prevent more of his blueboods being in residence.

Trying to pinpoint the precise reasons why any trainer rises towards the top is never easy. In Loder's case, the family background obviously helped, but it could have so easily seen him becoming a City whizz-kid as opposed to a potential Michael Stoute or Henry Cecil.

He rode from an early age,

JULIAN HERBERT



Loder discusses his team's prospects with Jason Weaver, who will be riding the Sefton Lodge horses regularly this season

initially without any great eagerness, but a favourite pony at the age of eight kindled his enthusiasm. Upon leaving Eton, where Charlie Brooks was a contemporary, the riding bug saw him spend time in point-to-point yards in Dorset and Gloucestershire. Two second places and infinitely more heavy falls followed before he joined Mark Prescott as pupil-assistant. By his own admission, he played harder than he worked, but at least the basics of stable routine were hammered home.

A year with Jonathan Sheppard in the United States, which included helping to supervise a barn of 40 horses at Delaware Park, instilled in Loder some of the finer points of training and a love for American racing. "I loved being on the track: the smell of it and the whole atmosphere. It was a great year to be with Jonathan as he had some top horses, including Storm Cat."

THE FLAT TRAINERS

DAVID LODER
by Richard Evans

Imagine his disappointment, therefore, when an unsuccessful application for visa credentials made him reluctantly return to Britain, where suitable openings in racing were few.

On the rebound, Loder gained an introduction to a City firm, spent a week swotting *Teach Yourself Stockbroking*, and sailed through an interview. He worked as a blue button and yellow button on the stock market floor before a combination of a takeover and "Big Bang" saw him catapulted to a smart West End office, with a salary trebled overnight. However, no sum of money could make up for the boredom of staring at a bank of computer terminals and by the middle of 1988 he was itching to return to racing.

Geoff Wragg finally submitted to the pestering of Loder, rejected his offer to work for free, and the pair's blend of classic experience and youthful energy produced a rich vein of success at Abington Place, culminating in the 1992 triumphs of Marling in the Irish 1,000 Guineas, Coronation Stakes and Sussex Stakes.

The manner of their parting, along with Loder's move to Sefton Lodge stables, from where Henry Cecil had trained some of his string, kept the Newmarket tongues wagging for several weeks. Interestingly, his tendency towards bull-in-the-china-shop exuberance has mellowed noticeably with the responsibilities of training.

However, Loder retains a single-minded determination to succeed. He thinks of little else apart from his horses. His staff are used to seeing him up at 5am, having often fallen asleep the previous evening in his office or while watching races on television.

Loder has the services of Jason Weaver as his stable jockey this season. Blessed also with experienced staff, including Geoff Potts, head lad, Tanya Bracegirdle, assistant trainer, Ricky Bowman, leading work rider, and Dan Gottfredsen, travelling head lad, he is a stickler for routine and detail in a yard of striking tranquility. His horses are trained harder than most on the gallops and little is left to chance before a runner heads for the racetrack.

Above all, he possesses confidence in his ability and, more importantly, that of his horses. Even at this early stage of the season he has a firm idea of his Queen Mary filly, Jersey Stakes contender and Eclipse Stakes entries.

Loder said: "The thing that really gives me a kick is winning group races. All horses are good horses until they prove themselves otherwise. Some quickly show they lack what it takes but the ones that have that little bit extra are on the escalator and don't come off it until they have reached their peak."

The same could be said of Loder. A man who would love to manage Manchester United if he was not training racehorses is on the escalator to the top and it hard to see him not achieving his goal.

THUNDERER

2.00 Dato Star
2.30 Selhurstpark Flyer
3.00 Millstream
3.30 Sanoosea
4.00 **MISTINGUETT** (nap)
4.30 Traceability
5.00 Zeb

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.30 Sanoosea.

GOING: GOOD — DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST — SIS

2.00 BNFL EASTER CONDITIONS STAKES — BBC1
(£7,886: 2m 45yd) (8 runners)

1	(7)	003311-	FURTHER FLIGHT 189 (D,F,S,B) (S Wingfield Digby) B Hills 9-9-12	A Hills	95
2	(6)	141101-	SILENCE IN COURT 199 (D,F,S,B) (P Freeman) B Meehan 4-9-8	J Carlton	92
3	(6)	16/5516-	BLAZING JOE 304 (F,B) (Mrs L Gardner) P Cole 4-9-1	DOUBTFUL	—
4	(3)	11/440-5	CHARITY CRUSADER 21 (C,F) (Express Maids Corle) P C-Hyam 4-8-13	B Thomson	99
5	(4)	5042-30	*LATAHAAB 21 (S) (Hacal Racing) R Akehurst 4-9-12*	T Ives	79
6	(1)	1	OLD ROUVEL 56 (S) (Mrs D Wilcox) D Murray Smith 4-8-12	K Darley	80
7	(2)		DATO STAR 31J (Mrs K Riley) J Jefferson 4-8-10	W R Swinburn	—
8	(5)	60	TIP THE DOVE 16 (C Price) R Price 5-8-9	T Sprake	—

BETTING: 8-4 Further Flight, 3-1 Charity Crusader, 4-1 Silence In Court, 7-1 Dato Star, 12-1 Old Rouvel, Lalahaab, 20-1 Tip The Dove.

1994: FLAKEY DOVE 8-8-11 T Sprake (13-8) R Price 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

FURTHER FLIGHT beat Tree Of Life ¼l in 5-runner Mixed Newmarket handicap (2m, good). SILENCE IN COURT beat Wall Relieved 4l in 3-runner Newcastle handicap (2m, good). CHARITY CRUSADER *about 6l 5th of 11 to Fire Worshipper in* conditions race at Doncaster (1m 4f, good to firm) with LATAHAAB (1lb worse off) about 18l9th. OLD ROUVEL beat Regal Pursuit 3¼l in 10-runner maiden at Lingfield (AW, 1m 4f). DATO STAR beat Red Blazer 1¼l in 21-runner grade I Privilege Nov *flat race at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, soft).*
Selection: FURTHER FLIGHT (nap)

2.30 BNFL FAMILY DAY HANDICAP — BBC1
(£5,654: 6f) (13 runners)

1	(4)	200025-	*SELHURSTPARK FLYER 192 (F,S) (C Cousins) J Berry 4-9-12*	J Carroll	90
2	(15)	242103-	MADLY SHARP 196 (CD,F) (Lord Swaythling) J Watts 4-9-7	B Thomson	89
3	(8)	13000-2	DOMULLA 22 (D,S,S) (A Boon) R Akehurst 5-9-6	W R Swinburn	90
4	(9)	113-050	HIGHBORN 22 (D,F,S) (Yorkshire Racing Club) P Felgate 8-9-4	K Darley	91
5	(11)	0600-10	CASTLEREA LAD 10 (CD,F,B) (Mrs T Grahame) R Hollinshead 8-9-1	W Ryan	91
6	(5)	33315-0	WHITTLE WOODS GIRL 10 (D,F,B,S) (J Jackson) E Alston 4-8-12	J Quinn	80
7	(2)	055-046	SO INTREPID 22 (D,S) (E Hayward) J Bradley 5-8-9	S Drowne (5)	91
8	(6)	600000-	*BENZOE 189 (D,S) (T Fawcett) Mrs J Ramsden 5-8-8*	K Fallon	—
9	(3)	500380-	BAYIN 162 (D,F,B,S) (T Barker) M Usher 5-8-3	R Street	86
10	(12)	51000-0	BARATO 22 (D,F,B) (D Young) Mrs J Ramsden 4-8-0	J Fanning	83
11	(7)	3-06401	CHINOUR 7 (D,F,B) (F McKeever) E Alston 7-8-0	N Carlisle	89
12	(1)	5/51444-	CASPIAN GOLD 420 (G) (J Lewis) C Allen 4-8-0	M Baird (5)	—
13	(10)	3404-23	THE OLD CHAPEL 10 (B,D,S) (D Allen) B McMahon 8-7-7	F Norton	54

Long handicap: The Old Chapel 7-6.

BETTING: 9-2 Domulla, 6-1 Castlerea Lad, 7-1 Barato, 8-1 Highborn, Selhurstpark Flyer, 9-1 Madly Sharp, 10-1 Whittle Woods Girl, 12-1 The Old Chapel, Chinour, 14-1 Bayin, Benzoe, So Intrepid, 50-1 Caspian Gold.

1994: BOLD STREET 4-7-2 D Wright (12-1) A Balley 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

SELHURSTPARK FLYER 5l 2nd of 7 to Double Blue *in conditions race at Hamilton (5f, good)* penultimate start. MADLY SHARP ¾l 2nd of 27 to Go With Bo in handicap at Newmarket (7f, good). Earlier beat Joyasmpree 1¾l in 12-runner handicap over course and distance (good to firm) with WHITTLE WOODS GIRL (5lb better off) ¼l 3rd and BARATO (14lb better off) 1¼l 4th. CASTLEREA LAD beat DOMULLA (1lb better off) ¾l in 22-runner handicap at Doncaster (8f, good to firm) on penultimate start with SO INTREPID (4lb better off) about 1l 6th, HIGHBORN (6lb better off) 1¾l 8th and BARATO (4lb better off) 8¾l 16th. BAYIN 2l and short-head 3rd of 22 to Sallymaite in handicap at Leicester (9f, good) October 1994. CHINOUR beat Invocation 1¼l in 10-runner celebrity handicap at Alcaster (6f, good to firm). THE OLD CHAPEL 4¾l 3rd of 23 to Palacegate Touch in handicap at Ripon (5f, good to soft) with WHITTLE WOODS GIRL 10½l 17th and CASTLEREA LAD 4l 20th.
Selection: MADLY SHARP

3.00 BNFL FIELD MARSHAL STAKES — BBC1
(Listed race: 3-Y-O: £12,137: 5f) (5 runners)

1	(4)	115020-	MIND GAMES 186 (D,F,S) (R Hughes) J Berry 9-4	J Carroll	93
2	(3)	101631-	MILLSTREAM 189 (D,F,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) M Johnston 8-13	W R Swinburn	97
3	(5)	512/00-5	COFFEE 'N CREAM 9 (D,F) (A Reeves) R Hannon 8-11	B Thomson	86
4	(2)	3215-	HINTON ROCK 302 (D,F) (Sir Thomas Pilkington) M Bell 8-11	M Hindley	78
5	(1)	124215-	WAVIAN 217 (D,F) (K Abdulla) R Charlton 8-11	K Darley	93

BETTING: 6-4 Mind Games, 9-4 Millstream, 4-1 Wavian, 6-1 Hinton Rock, 8-1 Coffee 'N Cream.

1994: GREAT DEEDS 8-8 G Duffield (5-2) M Channon 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

MIND GAMES short-head 2nd of 8 to Rash Alghard in the group II Tripleprint Flying Children at Doncaster (5f, good) penultimate start with MILLSTREAM ½l 3rd and WAVIAN (2lb better off) 2¼l 5th. MILLSTREAM beat Overbrook 4l in the 7-runner group II Cornwallis Stakes at Ascot (5f, good to firm). COFFEE 'N CREAM about 7¾l 5th of 6 to Bandeath in conditions race at Leicester (5f, good). HINTON ROCK about 3¾l 5th of 15 to Fave Music in conditions race at Royal Ascot (5f, good to firm). WAVIAN beat Don't Worry Me neck à 6-runner conditions race at York (5f, good to firm on penultimate start.
Selection: MIND GAMES

3.30 BNFL FAMILY DAY MAIDEN STAKES
(Div I: 3-Y-O: £3,838: 7f 30yd) (10 runners)

1	(7)	0-	AMRAK AJEEB 267 (A Mezza) B Hanbury 9-0	W Ryan	—
2	(9)	60-	CAROL'S DREAM 179 (Mrs C Lane) J Hills 9-0	M Henry (7)	70
3	(1)	0-	GOOD MATCH 322 (P Gandy) N Tinkler 9-0	K Darley	—
4	(8)	00400-0	MAGICAL BID 22 (G Fry) J Bradley 9-0	S Drowne (5)	78
5	(3)	00523-0	MAFTA 11 (J Lancaster & Pinn) S Kettlewell 9-0	J Fanning	79
6	(10)	0-0	NORDIC BREEZE 22 (M Jones) A Balley 9-0	V Halliday (5)	79
7	(4)	00-	NORTHERN CHARMER 173 (Bibby Halliday Partners) M Meagher 9-0	M Fenton	—
8	(6)	3	SAMOOSEA 22 (M Al-Maktoum) M Stoute 9-0	W R Swinburn	89
9	(2)		CUPRONICKEL (Lord Swaythling) J Watts 8-9	B Thomson	—
10	(5)		SPLINTERCAT (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-9	G Bind	—

BETTING: 9-4 Sanoosea, 4-1 Splintercat, 6-1 Nafta, 8-1 Carol's Dream, Nordic Breeze, Cupronickel, 16l Amrak Ajeeb, 12-1 others.

1994: PEN POINT 8-9 L Dettori (21-20 fav) R Charlton 8 ran

4.00 BNFL CHILDRENS CHARITY HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £5,602: 1m 2f 120yd) (11 runners)

1	(3)	131060-	PERCY BRAITHWAITE 191 (F) (B Yeardley) M Johnston 9-7	W R Swinburn	85
2	(6)	3124-	NEW CENTURY 208 (F) (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) H Cecil 9-4	W Ryan	88
3	(4)	20435-6	MANFUL 10 (F) (C Bazer-Lorman) J Hetherton 9-3	N Kennedy	82
4	(9)	11-	MURAJAA 199 (S) (H Al-Maktoum) P Walwyn 9-0	M Hills	(90)
5	(7)	511-01	CLIFTON FOX 7 (F,B) (P and S Partnership) J Glover 8-8	M Birch	94
6	(11)	01020-0	KEMO SABO 14 (S) (P Locke) Mrs J Ramsden 8-7	K Fallon	93
7	(2)	10800-0	CYRUS THE GREAT 14 (F) (W Jackson) M Bell 8-6	M Fenton	80
8	(1)	441-	MISTINGUETT 189 (G) (B Nielsen) R Hannon 8-3	B Thomson	(90)
9	(8)	*312140*	*NIGEL'S LAD 10 (D,S) (H Dunnington) P Haslam 7-10*	T Williams	86
10	(5)	5513-	TIDAL REACH 177 (S) (S Ashton) A Balley 7-9	L Charnock	91
11	(10)	0022-12	TRIBAL PEACE 56 (D,BF,S) (B Gubby Ltd) B Gubby 7-7	J Quinn	89

Long handicap: Tribal Peace 7-3.

BETTING: 7-2 Murajaa, 4-1 Clifton Fox, 5-1 New Century, 6-1 Mistinguett, 7-1 Percy Braithwaite, 8-1 Kemo Sabo, 10-1 Cyrus The Great, 12-1 others.

1994: BRANDON COURT 9-1 L Dettori (11-4) I Balding 5 ran

4.30 BNFL RISLEY MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,339: 5f) (18 runners)

1	(1)		EIGHTS HIGH (Chess Racing) R Hannon 8-7	K Darley	—
2	(3)	3	PASSION FOR LIFE 18 (D Waters) S Lewis 8-7	M Hills	—
3	(2)	02	RAMSEY HOPE 10 (C Barber-Lomax) C Fairhurst 8-7	N Kennedy	—
4	(4)		RAPID LINER (D Broderick) A Harrison 8-7	J Stark (5)	—
5	(7)	0	RICHARD HOUSE LAD 11 (D Morrill) C Smith 8-7	M Williams	—
6	(16)		ROYAL RAPPORT (R Beckley) B McMahon 8-7	Ives	—
7	(15)		TRACEABILITY (J Clayton) J Berry 8-7	J Carroll	—
8	(12)		ANSHAN'S DEITY (Goldspace T/A Sandal Business) C Fairhurst 8-5	W Woods	—
9	(6)	4	BEDSIDE MAIL 21 (G Cook) J Eustace 8-5	B Thomson	—
10	(13)	6	KENNY DAVIS 16 (J Group Ltd) Mrs H Parrott 8-5	T Lucas	—
11	(14)	4	MALLIA 10 (H Dendin) T Barron 8-5	J Quinn	—
12	(18)	0	ORIOLE 10 (Don Enrico Incisa) N Tinkler 8-5	Kim Tinkler	—
13	(5)		RUSSIAN INTASCAL (C Stevens) M H Easterby 8-5	R Birch	—
14	(17)	0	SHARP MONEY 10 (E Lesk) M H Easterby 8-5	T Ryan	—
15	(11)		TOPHASLOW (Mrs J Martin) P Dalton 8-5	L Charnock	—
16	(10)	4	JUST RORY 15 (Mrs C McPhail) E Alston 8-3	J Quinn	—
17	(9)		MERLIN'S HONOUR (J Smart) P Haslam 8-2	T Williams	—
18	(8)	2	DANCING LOTTIE 19 (G Tanner) P Kelleway 7-12	C Horton	—

BETTING: 3-1 Tragedy Ely, 5-1 Passion For Life, 6-1 Dancing Lottie, 7-1 Bedside Mail, 8-1 Ramsey Hope, 10-1 Eights High, 12-1 Mallia, 14-1 others.

1994: SPRINGBOURNE LAD 8-8 G Duffield (11-4) M Channon 7 ran

5.00 BNFL FAMILY DAY MAIDEN STAKES
(Div II: 3-Y-O: £3,838: 7f 30yd) (10 runners)

1	(3)		CARLITO BRIGANTE (B Hathaway) Mrs J Ramsden 9-0	K Fallon	—
2	(6)	0-	DOSSES DAN 259 (W Said) B Hills 9-0	J Hills	—
3	(4)		HOUGHTON VENTURE (Dr F Chee) S Woods 9-0	W Woods	—
4	(9)	4-	JAM N SHADEED 186 (T Lang) P Cole 9-0	C Rutter	69
5	(2)	06-	SHOW FLAIR 192 (P Towey) J Wainwright 9-0	J Fanning	—
6	(8)	5-	SMOLENSK 302 (C Dwyer) J Berry 9-0	J Carroll	—
7	(7)	05-	SOCIAL REGISTER 208 (K Abayesh) H Thomson Jones 9-0	N Carlisle	—
8	(1)	0	STAND TALL 22 (G Reed) C Thornton 9-0	Dean McKeown	73
9	(5)	2260-	ZEB 184 (Barouche Stud Ltd) B McMahon 9-0	Ives	(89)
10	(10)	3-	KHAMSEH 212 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Watts 8-9	B Thomson	85

BETTING: 3-1 Zeb, 5-2 Jam N Shadeed, 5-1 Khamseh, 7-1 Carlito Brigante, 8-1 Stand Tall, Smolensk, 10-1 Dosses Dan, 12-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rides	%
S Woods	3	4	75.0	W Woods	3	11	27.3
H Cecil	18	48	37.5	W R Swinburn	12	58	20.7
T Barron	4	14	28.6	M Hills	13	73	17.8
J Gosden	21	75	28.0	W Ryan	21	122	17.2
P Chapple-Hyam	5	18	27.8	B Thomson	3	18	16.7
H Thomson Jones	10	42	23.8	K Darley	15	101	14.9

☐ Fraam, the mount of Walter Swinburn, can take the Premio Natale di Roma (1m), at the Capannelle tomorrow and give his trainer, Ed Dunlop, a first success abroad.

KEMPTON PARK

THUNDERER

1.45 Tapintime
2.15 Mufferr
2.45 Presenting
3.15 Spout
3.45 Go Hever Golf
4.15 Stiletto Blade
4.45 Shadow Leader

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
4.15 STILETTO BLADE.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.15 MUFERR (nap). 2.45 Presenting.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) — SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

1.45 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND REDFERN MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,649: 5f) (20 runners)

101	(14)	6	AMARETTO BAY 11 (The Harlequin Pimms) B Meehan 9-0	B Doyle	—
102	(10)		ARCTIC ROMANCER (A Al Khalifi) G Lewis 9-0	A Whelan (5)	—
103	(15)		BABYLON BLUES (R Khan) R Hannon 9-0	D O'Neill (7)	—
104	(17)		BACK BY DAWN (White Horse Racing Ltd) D Elsworth 9-0	J Williams	—
105	(16)		HEVER GOLF EXPRESS (Hever Racing Club II) T Naughton 9-0	G Carter	—
106	(7)	2	JOHAYRO 23 (F Brady) W C M Turner 9-0	G Duffield	—
107	(12)		JOUS PRESENT (D Thompson) M Ryan 9-0	W Carson	—
108	(8)		MANDY'S RISK (Mrs M Caton) T Jones 9-0	R Perham	—
109	(5)		NAWGATE (Highclere Racing Ltd) R Hannon 9-0	Pat Eddery	—
110	(19)		PRIDE OF KASHMIR (The New Recruits) P Harris 9-0	R Hills	—
111	(18)		SHARP NIGHT (Blue Mountain Racing Pairs) M Saunders 9-0	A Dicks	—
112	(9)		SKY DOME (Miss D Mercer) M Tompkins 9-0	P Robinson	—
113	(4)		SONIC MAIL (Folly Road Racing Partner 1995) N McArdle 9-0	R Cochrane	—
114	(6)		*SPORTING FANTASY (Miss M Hickey) M Channon 9-0*	R Hughes	—
115	(20)		TAPINTIME (Kennet Valley Thoroughbreds) P Cole 9-0	T Quinn	—
116	(13)		THE IMPS (Lady Parker) B Hills 9-0	J D Smith (5)	—
117	(11)		ALL SHE SURVEYS (F Miller) J Akehurst 8-9	S Whitworth	—
118	(1)	3	LINCOLN TWENTY ONE 19 (D Distler) M Haynes 8-9	A McGlone	—
119	(2)	5	MISS WATERLINE 14 (M Lawrence) P Evans 8-9	L Dettori	—
120	(3)		TROPICAL DANCE (G Ward) Mrs J Cecil 8-9	J Reid	—

BETTING: 3-1 Navigate, 5-1 Tapintime, 6-1 Sporting Fantasy, 8-1 Tropical Dance, Johayro, 10-1 Back By Dawn, The Imps, 12-1 Hever Golf Express, 14-1 Pride Of Kashmir, 16-1 others.

1994: STATOM 9-0 T Quinn (5-2) M Channon 9 ran

2.15 MIDDLESEX HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £5,862: 1m 1f) (17 runners)

201	(7)	520-	SNOWY PETREL 213 (Sir Thomas Pilkington) J Dunlop 9-7	W Carson	80
202	(4)	03356-	STATE LAW 183 (K Bocharan) G Harwood 9-6	A Clark	84
203	(1)	14-	NIGHT DANCE 215 (F) (G Wright) G Lewis 9-5	Pat Eddery	83
204	(3)	04101-0	DUFFERTOES 14 (G,S) (Mrs P Watkins) M Ryan 9-5	G Carter	96
205	(10)	55-25	DONT FORGET CURTIS 14 (S Steadman) J Fanshawe 9-2	D Harrison	84
206	(11)	04125-0	AT LIBERTY 21 (G) (B Adams) R Hannon 9-0	J Reid	90
207	(9)	005-1	MUFERR 11 (G) (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum) L Cumani 8-13	L Dettori	94
208	(15)	00035-	ROCKFORCE 193 (G Mizzi) M Channon 8-11	R Hughes	82
209	(12)	002243-	BELLAS GATE BOY 225 (The Vasco Group Ltd) Mrs H Knight 8-11	J Weaver	80
210	(15)	43-4	PAPER CLOUD 23 (R Richards) C Britain 8-9	B Doyle	87
211	(14)	024-122	NO PATTERN 65 (V,G) (K Higson) G L Moore 8-8	B Rouse	93
212	(17)	41250-	JOHN LEE HOOKER 211 (F) (C Wright) D Arbuthnot 8-8	S Whitworth	85
213	(6)	432-	BOB'S PLOY 173 (K Reddington) R Akehurst 8-8	T Quinn	88
214	(5)	32000-	KIMBRIDGE KNIGHT 200 (Mrs R Waters) P Walwyn 8-6	R Cochrane	(89)
215	(2)	54329-	ORCHIDARMA 175 (Lord Matthews) R Williams 8-5	G Duffield	91
216	(13)	20556-31	GREENWICH AGAIN 46 (F,G) (J Humphreys Ltd) T Mills 8-4	R Hills	90
217	(8)	000130-	HI-AUD 159 (F) (A Spence) J Akehurst 8-1	S Sanders (3)	93

BETTING: 7-2 Muller, 6-1 Bob's Ploy, 8-1 Dont Forget Curtis, 10-1 Greenwich Again, Night Dance, 12-1 At Liberty, State Law, 14-1 Hi-Aud, No Pattern, Orchidarma, Paper Cloud, 16-1 others.

1994: KERRIE-JO 8-11 J Reid (14-1) M Haynes 17 ran

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ..... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

2.45 DURANTE CONDITIONS STAKES
(3-Y-O: £4,971: 1m 2f) (10 runners)

301	(1)	11-	PRESENTING 189 (F,G) (G Stawbridge) J Gosden 9-7	L Dettori	98
302	(2)	3110-	AL WIDYAN 183 (F,S) (Prince A A Faisal) H Cecil 9-4	A McGlone	96
303	(5)	2115-0	BALTIC RAIDER 21 (C,F,S) (Sir Philip Oppenheimer) G Wragg 9-4	P Robinson	94
304	(10)	133414-	DREAMER 189 (F,S) (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 9-4	T Quinn	93
305	(3)	14-	COMMONER 182 (S) (B Nielsen) R Hannon 8-13	Pat Eddery	91
306	(8)	01-	TAIPAN 182 (S) (Lord Swaythling) J Dunlop 8-13	J Reid	90
307	(9)	6510-	TIRA HEIGHTS 177 (S) (K Tong) R Armstrong 8-13	R Price	(89)
308	(4)	631-5	TWILIGHT SLEEP 21 (G) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 8-13	J Weaver	88
309	(5)	00-	KORAMBI 203 (B Wolf) C Brittain 8-10	M Rimmer	83
310	(7)	5123-	WARNING ORDER 187 (G) (I Cameron) J Dunlop 8-10	W Carson	97

BETTING: 9-4 Presenting, 4-1 Al Widyan, 7-1 Taipan, 8-1 Tira Heights, Commoner, Baltic Raider, 10-1 Warning Order, 12-1 others.

1994: SWIFT SILVER 7-7-1 S Lanigan (16-1) W Musson 15 ran

3.15 BONUSPRINT MASAKA STAKES — C4
(Listed race: 3-Y-O fillies: £13,119: 1m) (13 runners)

401	(9)	131623-	FLEET HILL 183 (G) (Mrs A Ferguson) M Channon 8-11	R Hughes	91
402	(4)	11112-	HIWAYA 175 (CD,E,S) (H Al Maktoum) H Thomson Jones 8-11	R Hills	(93)
403	(3)	121662-	SUSIYA 183 (F,S) (Prince A A Faisal) J Dunlop 8-11	J Reid	93
404	(9)	401-	BRING ON THE CHOIR 320 (S) (B Gover) R Boss 8-8	T Quinn	81
405	(11)	1	CASK 9 (G) (Lord Hartington) J Gosden 8-8	L Dettori	85
406	(7)	222311-	KARAYIB 186 (G) (H Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 8-8	W Carson	84
407	(11)	31-	MANDARINA 221 (F) (Rioucia Saud) L Cumani 8-8	J Weaver	76
408	(13)	531110-	MENAS GOLD 219 (D,F,G) (T Mountain) S Dow 8-8	Stephen Davies	86
409	(2)	54215-	MUSETTA 203 (S) (B Veale) C Brittain 8-8	M Rimmer	95
410	(6)	521233-	POPPY CAREW 196 (F) (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 8-8	R Cochrane	96
411	(12)	21153-	REGAL FANFARE 194 (F,G) (M Waechopes) J Hills 8-8	A Clark	95
412	(5)	21-	SHERDOS 176 (S) (A Al Shalan) R Armstrong 8-8	R Price	84
413	(10)	12-	SPOUT 219 (G) (Lady Rothschild) R Charlton 8-8	Pat Eddery	96

BETTING: 7-2 Hiwaya, 5-1 Spout, 6-1 Poppy Carew, Subiya, 7-1 Cask, Mandarina, 10-1 Karayib, 12-1 Regal Fanfare, Sheloog, 16-1 Fleet Hill, Musetta, 20-1 Menas Gold, 25-1 Bring On The Choir.

1994: LADY FAIRFAX 8-8 Pat Eddery (10-1) R Boss 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

HIWAYA beat Germane neck in 8-runner listed race at Newmarket (7f, good) on penultimate start, with POPPY CAREW (3lb better off) 2½l 3rd. SUBIYA head 2nd of 8 to Germane in the group III Tattersalls Rockfel Stakes at Newmarket (7f, good to firm) with FLEET HILL 1l 3rd. CASK beat A La Carte neck in 12-runner maiden at Leicester (7f, good). MANDARINA beat Shahid a short-head in 16-runner maiden at Lingfield (AW, 7f) 16-POPPY CAREW 1½l 3rd and MENAS GOLD about 4l 8th.
Selection: HIWAYA

MUSETTA beat A La Carte 3½l in 10-runner conditions race at Newbury (7f, soft) on penultimate start. REGAL FANFARE 2¼l 3rd of 25 to Maid For Walking in auction race at Redcar (5f, good). SHERDOS beat Three Stops 3l in 15-runner maiden at Doncaster (7f, good to soft). SPOUT neck 2nd of 11 to Mandalich in group III Abu Dhabi Airport Duty Free May Hill Stakes at Doncaster (1m, good) with POPPY CAREW 1½l 3rd and MENAS GOLD about 4l 8th.
Selection: HIWAYA

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rides	%
R Charlton	14	60	23.3	Pat Eddery	38	192	19.8
M Haynes	5	23	21.7	W Carson	24	172	14.0
G Wragg	7	33	21.2	R Hills	9	74	12.2
H Thomson Jones	8	38	21.1	D Harrison	8	80	10.0
P Walwyn	10	52	19.2	Only qualifiers			
Mrs J Cecil	5	28	17.9				

3.45 QUEEN ELIZABETH HANDICAP — C4
(3-Y-O: £5,732: 6f) (15 runners)

501	(12)	211020-	STAR TULIP 175 (D,F,S) (N Jones) J Dunlop 9-7	G Duffield	88
502	(1)	010201-	*GALLOWS CORNER 170 (D,S) (B Adams) R Hannon 9-2*	Pat Eddery	88
503	(2)	26224-0	KATYA 21 (G) (J Mitchell) M Channon 9-2	R Hughes	84
504	(7)	20111-1	GO HEVER GOLF 73 (D,G) (Hever Racing Club) T Naughton 9-2	G Carter	(89)
505	(3)	541-4	MAHANDROS 15 (D,S) (Ippokour S A) R Charlton 9-2	J Weaver	80
506	(4)	01-	QUINTUS DECIMUS 173 (S) (Penllyne Properties Ltd) Lord Huntingdon 8-9	L Dettori	82
507	(15)	430-5	EASY DOLLAR 9 (V) (B Gubby Ltd) B Gubby 8-9	R Cochrane	80
508	(10)	0-21310	BOLD EFFORT 48 (D,S) (A Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 8-8	B Doyle	82
509	(5)	23540-1	FATA 21 (D,F) (H Al Maktoum) P Walwyn 8-8	W Carson	93
510	(13)	10210-5	SALLY SLADE 15 (C,F,S) (R Dyer) C Dyer



Further Flight, the popular stayer trained at Lambourn by Barry Hills, makes his seasonal reappearance at Haydock Park today

Millstream can sparkle over minimum trip

HAYDOCK PARK

BBC1

2.00: Further Flight is the class horse. However, he carries the maximum penalty and has needed his first outing in recent seasons. *Charity Crusader is preferred.* He will improve from his recent run at Doncaster and should be suited by this trip. Dato Star, the Cheltenham bumper winner, has better place prospects than *Old Rouvel.*

2.30: After a luckless 1994 campaign, *Sellhurstpark Flyer* now looks well treated. *This* stiff track should suit the Jack Berry-trained four-year-old, who will invariably be tuned up for his seasonal debut. Domulla, just caught by Castlerea Lad over this trip at Doncaster, should reverse those placings here. He looks the biggest danger.

3.00: It is encouraging that connections are to campaign Millstream over five furlongs. With her blistering early speed, *this Dayjur filly should prove too quick even for this* field of pure sprinters. Millstream's disappointing runs last season came when she was held up over longer distances, but she showed her *mettle when outpacing some* smart opponents at Ascot in October. The surface will suit both Mind Games and Wavian. The former looks the main threat.

KEMPTON PARK

C4

3.15: This fillies' trial has endless permutations. Musetta, Spouf, Poppy Carew and Hiwaya have all competed at *this level, but are unproven on* fast ground. The same applies to Shefoog, although the Robert Armstrong-trained filly should start at attractive odds. After a promising Ascot debut, Shefoog trounced a big field of *maidens* at Doncaster and has improvement in her. Cask showed resolution when gaining a neck victory on her debut at Leicester last week but steps up in class here. Fleet Hill has place claims, while Mandarina has scope.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

3.45: Denbrae is well drawn but this in-form performer has been raised 5lb for a narrow victory at Nottingham last time and *Easy Dollar* may prove his master. A run in the Coventry Stakes suggests he was well thought of last term, and, after a ten-month absence, he led for much of the way over a furlong further at Brighton last week. Go Hever Golf and Fata have obvious claims but Quintus Decimus and Sally Slade would prefer easier ground.

4.15: This will be much harder for Blomberg and Henry Koehler, who ran encouraging races at Doncaster three weeks ago. Stiletto Blade has beaten better horses than today's opponents but has reportedly been slow to come to hand. Missel lacks resolution while Dahlik is *unlikely to be as forward as some of these.* It may be significant that Michael Stoute gave Magna Carta an outing on Lingfield's all-weather surface in November. The colt responded by winning in a canter and is bred to reach the heights.

4.45: Wishing, formerly Richard Hannon's Derby horse, is now with handicap king Reg Akehurst. He has ability and should be noted in the betting exchanges. Backgammon ran a fine race over hurdles at Aintree. Along with *General Mouktar* and Wayne County, he must be considered, but I plump for Chatham Island. The selection, from Clive Brittain's in-form stable, has been competing with credit on all-weather surfaces.

JULIAN MUSCAT

KEMPTON

THUNDERER

2.25 Driving Force. 2.55 Lord Glenvara. 3.25 Fiveleigh Builds. 3.55 Magic Junction. 4.25 Brave Defender. 4.55 Saint Keyne.

GOING: FIRM

2.25 SINGER & FRIEDLANDER HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,950: 2m 2f) (5 runners)

1 1340 DRIVING FORCE 24 (B,F,S,S) Mrs M McCourt 9-12-0 G McCourt
2 4110 PATS MINSTREL 24 (B,C,F,S,S) R Champion 10-11-9 M A Fitzgerald
3 P133 RED BEAM 10 (S,S) J O'Donoghue 7-11-1 A Maguire
4 3R3P GREEN WALK 68 (C,F) R Rowe 6-10-0 P McLoughlin (3)
5 PF20 MIRAGE DANCER 15 (F) Miss C Caroe 12-10-0 I Lawrence

7-4 Red Beam, 2-1 Driving Force, 5-2 Pats Minstrel, 10-1 Green Walk, 12-1 Mirage Dancer.

2.55 AMERICAN EXPRESS FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,975: 2m 1f) (9)

1 0-1P CHAPPUDDI 121 (B,CD,S,S) J White 5-11-10 P McLoughlin
2 /0-P BAYRNA 19F (D,F,S) R O'Sullivan 7-11-7 Karen Cook (7)
3 0004 GLOWING PATH 25 (D,F,S) R Hodges 5-11-2 J Harris (7)
4 -S05 LORD GLENVARA 28 (BF) T McGovern 7-10-7 A Bates
5 6605 GLOSSY 15 (F,S) Mrs M McCourt 6-10-6 D Leahy
6 UD43 SPRINGTIME AFFAIR 32 J Mullins 4-10-2 Ross Berry (5)
7 304P TINA'S CHARM 22F J Moore 6-10-0 S Fox
8 P000 RUN TO AU BON 40 A Moore 5-10-0 M Batchelor (7)
9 PP-0 JULY BRIDE 12 D Browning 5-10-0 L Aspell (3)

9-4 Glowing Path, 7-2 Glossy, 9-2 Springtime Affair, 5-1 Lord Glenvara, Chipperoni, 12-1 Bayrna, Tina's Charm, 20-1 others.

3.25 BAIN HOGG INSURANCE BROKERS NOVICES CHASE
(£2,976: 2m 5f) (7)

1 P434 MARGOOD 17 (V,S) J Mullins 10-11-8 S Curran (3)
2 2265 SO DISCREET 33 (B,F,S) J White 7-11-8 P McLoughlin (3)
3 1324 PAPER STAR 158 (CD,F) M Muggeridge 8-11-3 A Maguire
4 P545 RIVELEIGH BUILDS 36 (B,S) C Brooks 8-11-2 M Berry (7)
5 -500 KITSBEL 23 (B) T McGovern 7-11-2 P Holley
6 00P TARSULA 24 J Gifford 6-10-11 L Aspell (7)
7 0-80 COMBRO STAR 217 Miss C Caroe 5-10-8 I Lawrence

6-4 Fiveleigh Builds, 3-1 Margood, 4-1 So Discreet, 6-1 Paper Star, 10-1 Tarsula, 16-1 Kitsbel, 33-1 Combro Star.

3.55 SEEBOARD JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,481: 2m 1f) (7)

1 2400 FLEUR DE TAL 3 (D,F,S) W G M Turner 11-8 T Murphy (7)
2 3321 MAGIC JUNCTION 24 (S) N Henderson 11-7 M A Fitzgerald
3 004 ALCOVE 15 (V) G Johnson Houghton 11-0 B McCourt
4 250 AMBER VALLEY 9 D Williams 11-0 M Clarke (7)
5 0 LUNDON LAD 118 J White 11-0 P McLoughlin (3)
6 00P8 MARROWFAT LADY 17 Mrs P Dutfield 10-9 P Holley
7 04 PILLOW TALK 17 K Burke 10-9 A Maguire

5-4 Magic Junction, 3-1 Amber Valley, 5-1 Alcove, 6-1 Pillow Talk, 10-1 Lundon Lad, 12-1 Fleur De Tal, 20-1 Marrowfat Lady.

4.25 EUROP ASSISTANCE CONTINENTAL MOTORING HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,807: 3m 1f 110yd) (4)

1 P135 DWAOMIE 12 (F,S) R O'Sullivan 10-11-10 D O'Sullivan
2 3043 BRAVE DEFENDER 14 (F,S) J White 11-11-2 A Maguire
3 5-F4 POPPETS PET 23 (F,S) J Mullins 8-10-9 S Curran (3)
4 30PP SHASTON 48 (B,CD,F,S,S) W S M Turner 10-10-5 P Holley

11-8 Poppets Pet, 2-1 Dwaome, 9-4 Brave Defender, 25-1 Shaston.

4.55 HAMMON OSBORNE INSURANCE BROKERS NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,187: 2m 4f) (5)

1 0010 TIR NA NOG 10 (B,F,S) Miss L Shelly 6-12-2 J Ryan
2 0651 SAINT KEYNE 10 (D,F) D Williams 5-11-9 M A Fitzgerald
3 5P0 CALL ME RIVER 70 P Hodges 7-11-2 D O'Sullivan
4 5362 GLENCARRIG GALE 23 D Gressell 7-11-2 A Maguire
5 2055 ROYAL SEEDS 28 Mrs P Dutfield 8-11-2 P Holley

4-5 Saint Keyne, 4-1 Glencarrig Gale, 9-2 Royal Seeds, 6-1 Tir Na Nog, 16-1 Call Me River

COURSE SPECIALISTS

THUNDERER

7.00 Our Bessie. 7.30 Best Kept Secret. 8.00 Mr Mactavish. 8.30 Indian Serenade. 9.00 Lady Davenport. 9.30 Rupert's Princess.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

7.00 CODSALL MAIDEN HANDICAP
(£2,846: 1m 1f 79yd) (13 runners)

1 00-0 FLASHFEET 2 K Bishop 5-9-12 J Williams 1
2 45-5 OLD SWINFORD 9 B Meehan 3-9-6 S Wallworth 7
3 523- OUR BESSIE 178 D Marks 4-9-2 M Birkett (5) 3
4 0-30 FAIRELAINE 9 A Jarvis 3-9-0 K Darley 6
5 06-0 MILLRIDGE 14 R Lee 4-8-11 J Fortune 11
6 600- STUDIO TWENTY 177 R Hollinshead 3-8-8 T Ives 4
7 0054 ASHANIRA 12 S Bowring 5-8-8 C Teague (7) 13
8 0-04 MARCHANT MING 15 M Jarvis 3-8-7 W Woods 5
9 00-0 DELGARTH LADY 11 J Spearing 4-8-7 Dean McKeown 12
10 60-4 JU JU'S GIRL 26 B Scott 5-8-6 A Daly (7) 2
11 0000 MONTAGNE 513J M Eckley 6-8-5 T Williams 8
12 00-5 BALLESTRO 9 J Fitch-Hayes 5-7-8 J Quinn 10
13 400- OLIVIA VAL 172J A Newcombe 5-7-7 D Wright (3) 9

4-1 Our Bessie, 5-1 Old Swinford, 11-2 Marchant Ming, 7-1 Ashanira, Ju Ju's Girl, 8-1 Stiletto, Fairelaine, 10-1 others.

7.30 OAKEN CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,243: 5f) (8)

1 206- BEST KEPT SECRET 188 (D,F,S,S) J Berry 4-9-0 J Carroll 4
2 -00- TOP SHOW 315 (D,F,S) K Hogg 4-9-0 K Darley 7
3 2563 FARNDALE 2 (CD,S) R Thompson 5-8-8 L Charnock 6
4 1124 SEA DEVIL 9 (CD,F,S,S) M Camacho 9-8-6 J Fortune 3
5 -000 LIFE'S A BREEZE 14 (C,D,S) R Lee 5-8-4 J Fortune 5
6 3000 BOLD ARISTOCRAT 9 (S) R Hollinshead 4-8-2 A Garth (5) 8
7 006-5 BROOKHEAD LADY 14 (D,F,S) P Evans 4-8-1 S Maloney 2
8 0545 EFFICACY 85 A Jarvis 4-7-13 B Hunter (7) 6

3-2 Sea Devil, 11-4 Best Kept Secret, 5-1 Farndale, 6-1 Top Show, 8-1 others.

8.00 BOWMER AND KIRKLAND LONDON HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,794: 1m 4f) (9)

1 1-05 ELRIDGE 10 (B) C Britain 9-7 M Rimmer 9
2 0-10 MR MACTAVISH 56 (C,BF,S) Mrs J Cecil 9-6 T Ives 5
3 00-1 LAST CORNER 14 (CD,S) R Hollinshead 9-5 K Darley 1
4 8233 BEAU MATELOT 10 J Bethell 9-1 J Weaver 4
5 30-3 SPITFIRE BRIDGE 8 M McCormack 8-13 G Duffield 3
6 30-4 SHAWLINE 5 J Moore 8-9 R Hughes 2
7 0-02 HUNZA STORY 14 N Littmoden 7-11 N Carlisle 6
8 0-45 FAIR ELLA 21 (B) J Fitch-Hayes 7-9 J Quinn 7
9 00-0 VINTAGE TANTRINGER 14 M Bell 7-9 J Fanning 8

11-4 Mr Mactavish, 3-1 Last Corner, 4-1 Beau Matelot, 6-1 Elridge, 8-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Johnston, 20 winners from 76 runners, 26.3%; T Barron, 8 from 36, 21.1%; B Meehan, 6 from 30, 20.0%; M Heaton-Ellis, 4 from 20, 20.0%; M Channon, 8 from 35, 17.1%; C Brittain, 4 from 24, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: K Darley, 22 winners from 82 rides, 26.8%; T Ives, 17 from 88, 25.8%; W Woods, 6 from 24, 25.0%; J Weaver, 41 from 179, 22.9%; G Duffield, 10 from 55, 18.2%; M Baird, 6 from 40, 15.0%.

TOWCESTER

THUNDERER

2.20 Mountain Reach. 2.50 Smartie Express. 3.20 Just Rosie. 3.50 Sartorius. 4.20 Far Senior. 4.50 Ur Only Young Once.

Brian Beel: 4.20 Far Senior.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.20 GRACE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,600: 3m) (6 runners)

1 000F CADRILLON 11 T Tate 5-11-2 R Garritty
2 32 MOUNTAIN REACH 175 C Mann 5-11-2 J Railton
3 0P THREE JAYS 33 D Thom 8-11-2 N Mann
4 RP PENDIL'S DELIGHT 37 Mrs D Haine 6-10-11 J F Titley
5 5/0 PREMIER LADY 38 H Sawyer 8-10-11 S Keightley
6 0 SHANGHAI ANA 10 D Stoddart 4-10-8 R Supple

4-6 Mountain Reach, 11-4 Cadrillon, 8-1 Premier Lady, 12-1 others.

2.50 30th YEAR OF THE SCHILIZZI 1906 COMMEMORATIVE CHALLENGE CUP
(Handicap chase: £4,523: 2m 6f) (7)

1 5240 SMARTIE EXPRESS 9 (F,S,S) R Hodges 13-11-10 A Tory
2 0-UR CYTHERE 78 (C,S) J Gilbert 11-11-1 P Hide
3 2P70 DRAGONS DEN 44 (F,S,S) S Sherwood 9-10-12 G Upton
4 P201 STALINCH RIVAL 28 (S,S) G Thorner 8-10-10 R Farrant
5 00P0 SARAVILLE 15 (F,S,S) F Jordan 8-10-8 J Lodder
6 34P6 HILLWALK 63 (S,S) R Curtis 9-10-9 D Morris
7 P143 POSTMAN'S PATH 51 (CD,S,S) T Forster 9-10-7 J R Kavanagh

9-4 Staunch Rival, 4-1 Postman's Path, 5-1 Smartie Express, 6-1 Dragons Den, 7-1 Saraville, 8-1 Hillwalk, 10-1 Cythere.

3.20 CHILTERN RADIO HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,250: 2m) (10)

1 34UP FIERCE 35 (V,D,F,S) J Jenkins 7-11-10 E Murphy
2 2453 MARSH'S LAW 14 (V,CD,F,S,S) D Brennan 8-11-10 M Brennan
3 5400 VICOSA 68 (V,D,F,S) S Gollings 6-11-8 J Railton
4 2200 ATHERTON GREEN 29 (D,F,S) J Glover 5-11-5 J F Titley
5 5342 JUST ROSIE 10 (F,S) A Jones 6-11-3 S McNeill
6 1341 ALICE'S MIRROR 38 (B,CD,S,S) T McGovern 6-10-11 J R Kavanagh
7 0013 FRANKUS 24 (D,F,S,S) S Mellor 6-10-10 N Mann
8 0-53 INNOCENT GEORGE 19 (S) Miss L Siddall 6-10-6 R Garritty
9 6454 REVE EN ROSE 10 (D,F,S) M McMillan 9-10-6 R Davis
10 0130 JASON'S BOY 7 (S) J Bradley 5-10-1 R Farrant

3-1 Alice's Mirror, 7-2 Just Rosie, 5-1 Marsh's Law, 6-1 Atherton Green, 7-1 Frankus, 8-1 Fierce, 10-1 Innocent George, Reve En Rose, 14-1 others.

3.50 34th YEAR OF THE SCHILIZZI CHALLENGE BOWL HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,556: 2m 110yd) (5)

1 633P SARTORIUS 24 (CD,F,S,S) T Thomson Jones 9-11-10 J F Titley
2 1233 NORTHERN SADDLER 32 (D,F,S,S) R Hodges 8-11-5 A Tory
3 2332 DEEP DARK DAWN 178 (D,F,S) J Upson 10-11-0 Mr T Byrne
4 05S- BALLAD RULER 4F (D,S) P Pritchard 9-10-13 R Davis
5 44P0 YOUNG ALFIE 12 (B,CD,S) J Pannett 10-10-0 J R Kavanagh

5-4 Northern Saddler, 6-4 Deep Dark Dawn, 3-1 Sartorius, 10-1 others.

4.20 EMPRESS ELIZABETH OF AUSTRIA HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £2,390: 3m 1f) (5)

1 -SU1 CHARDEN 28 (D,S,S) J Mullins 9-12-4 Lt-Col R Webb-Bowen (7)
2 4RF2 HERMES HARVEST 18 (S) D Williams 7-12-4 A Balding (7)
3 3-3P FAR SENIOR 182 (D,F,S) K Bailey 8-12-0 M Armytage
4 2-P4 HURRICANE HUGO 14 (F,S) Mrs G Luck 8-12-0 J Luck (7)
5 22-4 WHATS THE CRACK 70 (B,S) Mrs King 12-12-0 R Johnson (7)

4-5 Far Senior, 7-2 Whats The Crack, 5-1 Charden, 8-1 others.

4.50 HOILE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,475: 2m) (16)

1 1 UR ONLY YOUNG ONCE 15 (F) Mrs D Haine 5-11-2 J F Titley
2 03 BRADLOR PENNY 19 J Norton 5-11-0 W Fry (5)
3 54 CHAPELLIERE 19 T Thomson Jones 5-11-0 J Railton
4 556 CLAVERHOUSE 19 Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-11-0 W Dwan
5 0 MARINA'S LAD 84 A James 5-11-0 DOUBTFUL
6 0 RED RORY 19 D Brennan 5-11-0 M Brennan
7 0 ANGLESEY SEA VIEW 17 A Bailey 6-10-9 Mr R Hewitt
8 43 GEMMA'S WAGER 17 M Campion 5-10-9 L Dace
9 0 NORTHERN ELATION 23 J Spearing 5-10-9 J R Kavanagh
10 0 THE BRATPACK 67 J Kirby 5-10-9 R Supple
11 0 FRAZER NASH 21 A Jones 4-10-8 S McNeill
12 0 MANUAL 19 T Caldwell 4-10-8 Pat Caldwell
13 0 RUSTY MUSKETEER 31 N Graham 4-10-8 P Hide
14 0 WYNBERG 35 T Forster 4-10-8 R Farrant
15 0 FORTUNES GLEAM 31 J King 4-10-3 G Upton
16 00 THE BIZZO 15 J Pannett 4-10-3 D Fortt (5)

2-1 Ur Only Young Once, 9-2 Anglesey Sea View, 5-1 Bradlor Penny, 7-1 Claverhouse, 8-1 Chapelliere, 10-1 Wynberg, 14-1 others.

CARLISLE

THUNDERER

2.05 Jigginstown. 2.35 Monokratic. 3.05 Charlotte's Emma. 3.35 Mr Knitwit. 4.05 Kytton Castle. 4.35 Provence. 5.05 The Grey Monk.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.05 BORDER GARDEN CENTRE NOVICES CHASE
(£2,944: 3m) (10 runners)

1 01PP FORDSTOWN 47 (S) J Barclay 6-11-8 Richard Guest
2 -1PP JIGGINSTOWN 44 (S) J J O'Neill 8-11-8 L Wyer
3 3210 LEADING PROSPECT 25 (D,G,S) Mrs J Goodfellow 8-11-8 B Storey
4 0051 MULLINEAR 25 (D,F) J Charlton 5-11-8 K Johnson
5 5020 DOMINANT SERENADE 31 (G,S) M Hammond 6-11-2 P Niven
6 50P5 MISTER HOCHBERG 72 (V,F,S) Mrs V Ward 9-11-2 W McFarland
7 P-53 RUSSIAN CASTLE 25 J Wilson 5-11-2 K Jones
8 220F SPARROW HALL 31 (G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-11-2 M Dwyer
9 /P6 THE ENERGISER 25 D Lamb 9-11-2 Mr A Manners (7)
10 -SF6 VESTAL HILLS 25 (B) D McCune 9-11-2 J Supple (5)

2-1 Mullingar, 7-2 Domaene Serenade, 5-1 Jigginstown, 6-1 others.

2.35 BBC RADIO CUMBRIA NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: £2,239: 2m 1f) (13)

1 2624 BLUE LAWS 22 (S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-8 M Dwyer
2 2651 LORD DORCET 12 (S) J Charlton 5-11-8 K Johnson
3 1PP MONOKRATIC 37 (CD,S) Mrs S Bramall 6-11-8 J Burke
4 -334 BECK AND CALL 22 J Edwards 6-11-2 D Bentley
5 BLUEBALLOS 11 F Jordan 6-11-2 M Lavelle
6 125 FEARLESS WOMDER 25 (S) Mrs M Reveley 4-11-2 P Niven
7 -P00 GRANDERISE 26 D Swindlehurst 5-11-2 Mr D Swindlehurst
8 000 GRASSINGTON 4 (B) P Beaumont 6-11-2 C Hawkins
9 546- MANDYS LAD 353 R Dickin 6-11-2 R Bellamy
10 024 SUPERTOP 40 L Lungo 7-11-2 F Perratt (3)
11 000P ANOTHER LEAF 22 R McDonald 8-10-11 R Hodge
12 3P SMART IN SILK 77 G Richards 6-10-11 M Moloney
13 NEVER SO BLUE 334F P Bradley 4-10-10 S Wynne (3)

3-1 Blue Laws, 4-1 Lord Dorcet, 9-2 Beck And Call, Fearless Wonder, 6-1 others.

3.05 QUILTER GOODISON HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,615: 3m) (12)

1 11SP WHAAT FETTLE 133 (D,F,S,S) G Richards 10-12-0 M Moloney
2 6620 NEVADA GOLD 21 (D,F,S,S) F Yardley 9-11-13 W McFarland
3 1121 TARTAN TRADEWINDS 47 (C,D,S,S) G Richards 8-11-8 B Harding (5)
4 006P PLENTY CRACK 28 (CD,S,S) B Mactaggart 12-11-5 L Wyer
5 2U45 SKY RANGE 21 (F,S,S) L Lungo 10-11-4 F Perratt (3)
6 36U4 KUSHBALOO 25 (CD,F,S) C Parker 10-11-3 B Storey
7 2226 VELEDA II 6 (CD,F,S,S) Mrs S Bramall 8-11-1 Mr D Parker (5)
8 1003 PINK GIN 30 (C,D,F,S,S) M Hammond 8-10-10 P Niven
9 13U0 CHARLOTTE'S EMMA 12 (F,S,S) Mrs J Goodfellow 8-10-9 Richard Guest
10 2P44 STRONG APPROACH 14 (C,S,S) J Charlton 10-10-6 K Johnson
11 3435 THE YANK 54 (V,CD,F,S) M Hammond 9-10-3 D Bentley
12 P-PP BALLINROSTIG 84 (D,F,S) B Wilkinson 12-10-0 N Smith

3-1 Tartan Tradewinds, 9-2 Veleda II, 5-1 Nevada Gold, 7-1 Kushbaloo, Wheat Fettle, 8-1 Strong Approach, 10-1 The Yank, 12-1 others.

3.35 CUMMERSDALE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,790: 2m 4f 110yd) (12)

1 45-5 ADRIEN 205 (B,S) Mrs S Bramall 7-12-0 Mr D Parker (5)
2 R66 ASLAN 14 (S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-11-12 M Dwyer
3 30-2 FIRM PRICE 129 (D,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 14-11-6 P Niven
4 1120 MR KNITWIT 56 (D,G) G Richards 8-11-8 B Harding (5)
5 6310 NORTHUMBRIAN KING 12 (D,F,S,S) Mrs K Walton 9-11-5 J Callaghan
6 3F64 MASTER OF TROY 22 (C,S,S) C Parker 7-10-4 Mr D Parker (5)
7 0550 WEE WIZARD 12 (B,F,S,S) M Barnes 6-10-3 S Cahill (7)
8 1204 EXEMPLAR 12 (F) Mrs S Smith 7-10-1 Richard Guest
9 64-4 COMBELLINO 11 M Hammond 5-10-0 D Bentley
10 3545 WHITE DIAMOND 30 (C,F,S) Mrs A Swinbank 7-10-0 J K McCarthy (7)
11 P030 BAJAN AFFAIR 12 (S) Miss L Siddall 5-10-0 P Leahy (5)
12 5004 SCARBA 26 (S) D Simpson 7-10-0 E Husband (5)

3-1 Mr Knitwit, 4-1 Exemplar, 5-1 Aslan, 6-1 Firm Price, Master Of Troy, 8-1 Northumbrian King, 10-1 Combellino, 12-1 others.

4.05 BRACKENRIDGE HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,918: 2m) (12)

1 3238 POSITIVE ACTION 11 (D,F,G,S) M Barnes 9-11-10 S Cahill (7)
2 33-4 SPANISH FAIR 44 (D,F,S) Mrs S Bramall 7-11-9 J Burke
3 151F KYTTON CASTLE 98 (D,BF,S,S) R Dickin 8-11-8 R Bellamy
4 3U4F PRECIPICE RUN 77 (B,C,D,S,S) G Richards 10-11-4 M McKinney
5 F443 GOLDEN ISLE 12 (D,F,S,S) J Charlton 11-10-13 K Johnson
6 60F4 BALLY PARSON 24 (S) R Dickin 9-10-13 L Wyer
7 6123 KAMINDARL 11 (B,D,S,S) N Tinkler 8-10-13 M Dwyer
8 P421 MILS MU 12 (F,S,S) T Culhane 10-10-10 P Niven
9 341F THE LORRYMAN 77 (CD,F,S) L Lungo 7-10-8 F Perratt (3)
10 5213 BULA HUDAY 47 (V,S) J Dixon 10-10-7 B Storey
11 24-0 WILD ATLANTIC 31 (CD,F,S) Miss Z Green 12-10-5 K Jones
12 3U12 HEATHVIEW 4 (F,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-10-0 P Leahy (5)

3-1 Mils Mu, 9-2 Kytton Castle, 5-1 Golden Isle, 6-1 Kamindarl, 7-1 Bally Parson, 8-1 Positive Action, 10-1 others.

4.35 CARLISLE CLUB MEMBERS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,278: 2m 4f 110yd) (18)

1 100 GENERAL COMMAND 56 (G) G Richards 7-11-10 B Harding (5)
2 -F60 MALACHITE GREEN 42 (B) M Hammond 5-11-8 B Storey
3 0550 SOUNDS FYNE 70 (G) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-7 M Dwyer
4 2003 JACK DREAMING 46 Mrs S Smith 6-11-7 Richard Guest
5 1015 TRIBUNE 4 (B) C Thornton 4-11-6 D Williamson
6 0520 MR DICK 133 M H Easterby 5-11-5 L Wyer
7 30P5 DALLUSMAN 22 J Barker 7-11-5 J Supple (5)
8 2-0P GROG 35 D Swindlehurst 5-11-5 Mr D Swindlehurst
9 -105 GYMCRAK TIGER 140 (G) E Holmes 5-11-4 P Leahy (5)
10 5001 PROVENCE 25 (F) L Lungo 8-11-4 F Perratt (3)
11 25P2 SOUTH WESTERLY 25 Mrs M Reveley 7-11-2 P Niven
12 0043 FATHER O'BRIEN 11 J Edwards 8-11-1 D Bentley
13 0060 TACTIV 47 Mrs M Milligan 5-10-13 J Callaghan
14 23PP SOLOMAN SPRINGS 84 (V) Mrs V Ward 5-10-8 W McFarland
15 50P3 PETER 25 D Whitaker 7-10-7 M Moloney
16 005P ZAMBEZI SPIRIT 88 R Dickin 6-10-5 R Bellamy
17 0644 OWENS QUEST 25 T Etherington 5-10-5 R Rourke (7)
18 6-PP CAILIN RUA 11 M Meagher 7-10-4 G Lee (5)

4-1 Provence, 5-1 Sounds Fyne, 6-1 South Westerly, 7-1 Peter, 8-1 Jack Dreaming, 10-1 Owens Quest, Dalusman, 12-1 others.

5.05 BBC RADIO CUMBRIA NOVICES HURDLE
(Div II: £2,229: 2m 1f) (13)

1 1603 FOX SPARROW 14F (S) N Tinkler 5-11-8 A S Smith
2 121F GALANT DES EPEIRES 63 (G,S) Mrs S Bramall 4-11-8 J Burke
3 -U41 THE GREY MONK 11 (G,S) G Richards 7-11-8 B Harding (5)
4 000 BLUE IS THE COLOUR 30 C Parker 5-11-2 Mr D Parker (5)
5 0/P BRAVE STAR 36 Mrs B Butterworth 9-11-2 A Roche (3)
6 305F GORBY'S MYTH 19 J Leigh 5-11-2 Richard Guest
7 3 LA MOUCHE 11 Mrs S Smith 7-11-2 Mr L Donnelly (7)
8 -055 TASHREEF 74 J Beriet 5-11-2 M Moloney
9 0458 WELL APPOINTED 26 B Mactaggart 6-11-2 F Perratt (3)
10 5400 AMBER HOLLY 25 J Dixon 6-10-11 B Storey
11 PP CITY LIGHTER 26 J Gledson 5-10-11 N Bentley
12 ELFOOT J Charlton 6-10-11 K Johnson
13 227 INSTIGATE 704 (F) J Edwards 7-10-11 D Bentley

2-1 The Grey Monk, 7-2 Fox Sparrow, 9-2 Galant Des Epeires, 8-1 Well Appointed, Tashreef, 10-1 Gorby's Myth, 12-1 Instigate, 14-1 others.

NEWTON ABBOT

THUNDERER

2.10 Stac-Pollaidh. 2.40 Qualitair Memory. 3.10 Secret Four. 3.40 Polden Pride. 4.10 Abbotsham. 4.40 Routing. 5.10 Edelweiss.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.10 MILE END MARES ONLY MAIDEN HURDLE
(Div I: £2,306: 2m 1f) (9 runners)

1 B00 BUCKLAND FILLEIGH 23 P Hobbs 5-11-0 Peter Hobbs
2 INSLIGHT R Frost 6-11-0 J Frost
3 0-06 LADY MAVIS 12 N Bishop 5-11-0 M Moran (7)
4 LATEST TARQUIN Mrs E Scott 6-11-0 Mr S Madraine (7)
5 00-P LULA RIDGE 14 M Keenor 5-11-0 Mr T Greed
6 F ROSE OF MACMILLION 70 Mrs B Waring 5-11-0 E Byrne
7 6442 SPIRIT LEVEL 24 J Payne 7-11-0 Mr R Payne
8 00-4 STAC-POLLAIDH 28 K Bailey 5-11-0 N Williamson
9 P- STRATTON FLYER 387 R Howe 5-11-0 B Powell

3-1 Stac-Pollaidh, 4-1 Buckland Filleigh, Spirit Level, 6-1 Inslight, 8-1 others.

2.40 HACCOMBE SELLING HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,983: 2m 110yd) (12)

1 PP03 LOCKWOOD PRINCE 29 (F,S,S) R Frost 12-11-12 J Frost
2 03U1 RUPPLES 24 (D,F,S) M Chapman 8-11-7 W Worthington
3 4000 DUALTAIR MEMORY 12 (F,S,S) A Jones 8-11-7 Guy Lewis (5)
4 310P POLK 40 (S) M Pipe 6-10-11 L Reynolds (7)
5 5443 RICHU 24 (F) G Thorner 7-10-10 B Powell
6 U253 RATHER SHARP 28 (D,S) C Popham 9-10-8 N Williamson
7 4403 FRED SPLENDID 33 (CD,S) R Hodges 12-10-8 T Dascombe (7)
8 43S0 MUSIC BOX 12 (S,S) R Hodges 5-10-4 D Gallagher
9 P1P0 BONUS BOY 23 (CD,S) R Buckler 10-10-4 Peter Hobbs
10 03SP GILBERT 107 (F) D Carey 7-10-3 A Thomson
11 2P34 OLD ROAD 28 (B,D,BF,F,S,S) J Smith 9-10-0 W Marston
12 -P43 BLACK HORSE LAD 16 (S) Mrs J Retter 11-10-0 A P McCoy

3-1 Rupples, 4-1 Polk, 6-1 Rather Sharp, 7-1 Lockwood Prince, Black Horse Lad, 8-1 Richu, Fred Splendid, 14-1 others.

2.10 MILE END MARES ONLY MAIDEN HURDLE
(Div I: £2,306: 2m 1f) (9 runners)

1 B00 BUCKLAND FILLEIGH 23 P Hobbs 5-11-0 Peter Hobbs
2 INSLIGHT R Frost 6-11-0 J Frost
3 0-06 LADY MAVIS 12 N Bishop 5-11-0 M Moran (7)
4 LATEST TARQUIN Mrs E Scott 6-11-0 Mr S Madraine (7)
5 00-P LULA RIDGE 14 M Keenor 5-11-0 Mr T Greed
6 F ROSE OF MACMILLION 70 Mrs B Waring 5-11-0 E Byrne
7 6442 SPIRIT LEVEL 24 J Payne 7-11-0 Mr R Payne
8 00-4 STAC-POLLAIDH 28 K Bailey 5-11-0 N Williamson
9 P- STRATTON FLYER 387 R Howe 5-11-0 B Powell

3-1 Stac-Pollaidh, 4-1 Buckland Filleigh, Spirit Level, 6-1 Inslight, 8-1 others.

2.40 HACCOMBE SELLING HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,983: 2m 110yd) (12)

1 PP03 LOCKWOOD PRINCE 29 (F,S,S) R Frost 12-11-12 J Frost
2 03U1 RUPPLES 24 (D,F,S) M Chapman 8-11-7 W Worthington
3 4000 DUALTAIR MEMORY 12 (F,S,S) A Jones 8-11-7 Guy Lewis (5)
4 310P POLK 40 (S) M Pipe 6-10-11 L Reynolds (7)
5 5443 RICHU 24 (F) G Thorner 7-10-10 B Powell
6 U253 RATHER SHARP 28 (D,S) C Popham 9-10-8 N Williamson
7 4403 FRED SPLENDID 33 (CD,S) R Hodges 12-10-8 T Dascombe (7)
8 43S0 MUSIC BOX 12 (S,S) R Hodges 5-10-4 D Gallagher
9 P1P0 BONUS BOY 23 (CD,S) R Buckler 10-10-4 Peter Hobbs
10 03SP GILBERT 107 (F) D Carey 7-10-3 A Thomson
11 2P34 OLD ROAD 28 (B,D,BF,F,S,S) J Smith 9-10-0 W Marston
12 -P43 BLACK HORSE LAD 16 (S) Mrs J Retter 11-10-0 A P McCoy

3-1 Rupples, 4-1 Polk, 6-1 Rather Sharp, 7-1 Lockwood Prince, Black Horse Lad, 8-1 Richu, Fred Splendid, 14-1 others.

3.10 ST AUSTELL CLAIMING HURDLE
(£2,220: 3m 3f) (10)

1 5431 SECRET FOUR 40 (F,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-8 Mr M Rimell (5)
2 3252 BOOGIE BOPPER 24 (V,C,S) M Pipe 8-11-5 D Burrows (7)
3 15RP KELLING 32 (C,S) P Nicholls 8-11-5 C Maude
4 -503 RELTIC 46 (G) C Broad 8-11-5 W Marston
5 5400 ARROW LINE 9F (S) D Burchell 10-11-3 D J Burchell
6 0040 LADY LIR 23 B Young 6-11-2 Miss S Young
7 0036 ROWLANDSONS GOLD 25 (G,S) G L Moore 5-11-1 A P McCoy
8 0 FINAL EXPRESS 12 R Buckler 7-11-0 G Bepple (7)
9 1313 LIZZIES LASS 220 (F,G) F Gray 10-10-12 M Crosse
10 P0 SHEFFORD 23 M Keenor 5-10-12 Mr T Greed

5-2 Secret Four, 9-2 Boogie Bopper, 5-1 Kelling, 6-1 Arrow Line, 7-1 Reltic, 8-1 Lizzies Lass, Rowlandsons Gold, 12-1 others.

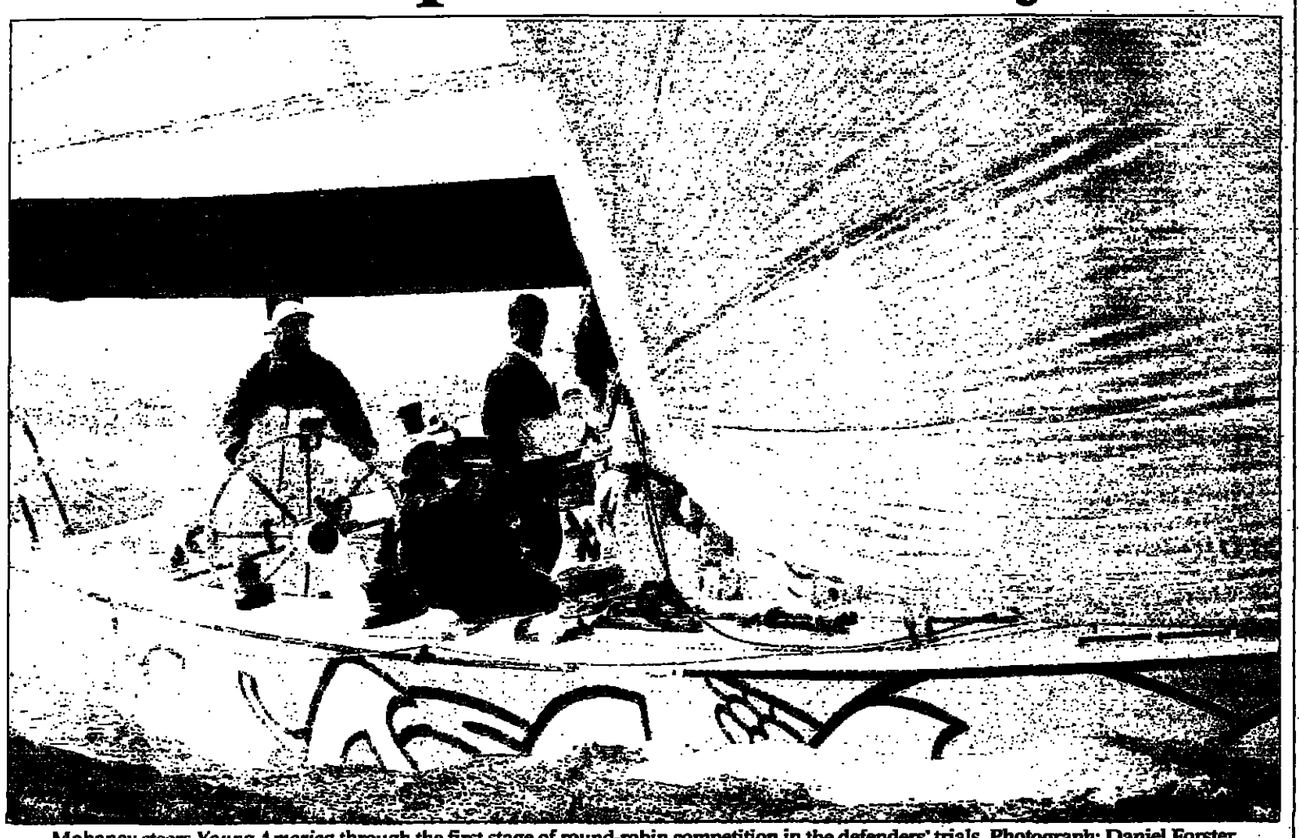
3.40 DARTMOOR CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,712: 2m 6f) (10)

1 4180 RICH DESIRE 21 (B,F,S) F Murphy 6-11-10 B Murphy
2 0053 NINE O THREE 31 (S) N

Friend turned rival offers ultimate test of America's Cup credentials

Marshall champions cause of youth

FROM DAVID MILLER IN SAN DIEGO



Mahaney steers *Young America* through the first stage of round-robin competition in the defenders' trials. Photograph: Daniel Forster

WHEN you meet John Marshall before breakfast, out walking his lame old labrador by the beach across the road from *Young America*'s dock on Shelter Island, he hardly looks, at 51, that cut-throat breed of yachtsman that might win an America's Cup.

For more than 15 years, he and Dennis Conner were salt-caked buddies. Few knew more about yachting's high-society arena: Conner, the *near flawless* match-racing helmsman: Marshall, the design boffin. Now, they have become arch-rivals, in performance and over principles.

"Dennis Conner's level [of performance] is no longer the best," Marshall said, provocatively, Conner having just levelled the three-boat defenders' final trials at two points each, "and we're here to prove it, with young, aggressive, hungry sailors who are at the top internationally."

The mild-mannered biochemist from Maine, Connecticut, for so long Conner's right-hand man, has nonchalantly put himself on the line for the second meeting, tomorrow, with *Stars and Stripes* in the 12-race round-robin to select the ultimate defender. Never mind two consecutive defeats. Marshall is confident that youth and technology will reconfirm *Young America*'s superiority in the semi-finals over Conner and *Mighty Mary*. Bill Koch's America³ syndicate, crewed predominantly by women.



Marshall: experience

Marshall believes that success by his research-orientated Pact '95 — Partnership for America's Cup Technology — which he initially created by invitation in 1992 to make computer high-technology available to all defender candidates, is imperative for the protection of the event. He is competing not merely to win but, altruistically, to save this million-dollar playground.

After the ill-conceived, irrelevant campaign of 1988 — in which Marshall helped design Conner's defending foil-sail multi-hull that was a tactical retort to the New Zealander, Michael Fay's silly challenge in a massive 130-footer that lost 4-0 — Marshall recognised that the 137-year-old competition was heading for self-destruction. Both in terms of cost and public credibility.

He had taken part since 1974, crewing for Conner in the *Freedom* defence of 1980 and the historic loss to *Australia 2* by *Liberty* in 1983. He led the design team for *Stars and Stripes* that recovered the cup in Fremantle in 1987. When the rules went overboard the next year, he thought it time to move camp.

"Developing the wing [foil] sail for '88 was intellectually intriguing, but not much of a sporting event," he recalled. "The new International America's Cup Class (IACC) is extremely different from the old 12-metre" — ten feet longer at 75 feet, 75 per cent more sail, 40 per cent more draft, 30 per cent less weight — "and reduced the database to zero. A lot of rivals had no real understanding of the advantage we achieved with *Stars and Stripes*.

"Then, San Diego asked me to create a research programme for the IACC data available to any defender in 1992. Dennis and Bill [the winner then] are the survivors of that campaign." Yet Conner and Koch both continued to pour massive budgets into the event with individual multi-boat programmes, Koch contributing about £65 million from his private fortune.

"Multi-boat campaigns will give you a brute force answer to the objective," Marshall said, "but will alienate you from the public. Yet increasingly there is an inter-action between sport and technology, a social link, so people need to be technology-literate."

Marshall therefore decided, for the first time, to lead a low-budget (£11 million) syndicate, funded from New England, in which £2 million would be spent on a nationwide youth education programme, incorporating media collaboration and thus serving the *Young America* sponsors. Besides the education programme, Pact '95's project would include simulation technology that would avoid building a second boat, extensive two-boat testing and the massive overheads of sails and crew maintenance. Thus, technology replaced going sailing.

His altruism extends to the rivalry on the water. *Young America* had the power of veto over the bizarre joint move by Koch and Conner to make the defenders' final another three-boat series, with no boat eliminated from the semi-finals. Their reason was wholly financial, needing the sponsor-exposure by television that came into action only this week.

Marshall walked out of the late-night defenders' committee meeting, his terms being rejection unless *Young America* start with a two-point advantage. Ultimately, the two others agreed. In the event, *Young America* needed that insurance when subsequently losing the first two races. Further public relations injury had been inflicted, however, by rule manipulation.

"It was a tough call for us," Marshall admitted, "and it wasn't done out of charity or sportsmanship. If we're to beat New Zealand [widely presumed winners of the challengers' final series over Australia], we needed to be pushed hard in our finals. If we can't beat Conner at his best, we wouldn't have a chance against *Black Magic*; but, if we were to lose, I guess we'll know that, when you have a snake at your feet, you should cut its head off."

Kevin Mahaney, the *Young America* helmsman, won a silver medal at the Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992 in the Soling class and is a match-play specialist. The wily Conner will test him to the full.

Stars & Stripes remains on course

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN SAN DIEGO

EVEN a whale could make no impact on Dennis Conner's rise from oblivion to level the scores in the finals of the America's Cup defence finals. Last night, the skipper of *Stars & Stripes* was poised to take a points lead in his second match of the series against Kevin Mahaney's *Young America* team, having seen off the challenge of *Mighty Mary* the night before.

The whale, swimming up the course as Conner's yacht was gliding down well ahead of *Mighty Mary*, proved the only threat to Conner and his crew chalking up their second victory in succession. "It was on a perfect collision course," Tom Whidden, Conner's tactician, said. "We had to alter course dramatically and we missed it by no more than 5ft."

The outcome might have been different had the judges not been unsighted by spectator craft during the furious pre-start feuding. *Stars & Stripes* was caught on the give-way port tack in a narrow channel between the intruding spectator fleet, which had been swept on to the course area by the strong running tidal stream, and the yachts came close to colliding. The umpires green flagged the incident, but, after viewing videotapes of the incident, John Doerr, the chief umpire, admitted that Conner's yacht had been in the wrong and should have dealt a 270-degree penalty that would have put *Stars & Stripes* behind at the start.

If that was an unlucky call, then *Mighty Mary*, skippered by Leslie Egnot, suffered two more misfortunes when a spinnaker snap-shackle failed during the first downwind run and its second halyard parted during the second, leaving the crew to drag the sail out of the water on both occasions. By then, however, the race had already been lost and Conner's campaign, which only last week looked like being on the ropes, was back in contention to defend the cup.

John Bertrand's *oneAustralia* challenge also ran out of luck. The crew of *Team New Zealand* walked away with a second easy victory in their best-of-nine challenger finals for the Louis Vuitton Cup, then failed to win calls for a lay-day yesterday and the opportunity to change their boat.

"We need more time to sort our boat out," Bertrand said yesterday. "We want more time to train." Their problem is that he needs the New Zealanders to approve the changes and, having seen Conner rise from the canvas to serve two knock-downs in a row on the defender course, they are in no mood to compromise.

McGuire on target as Teddington recover to beat hosts

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN IN CAGLIARI

TEDDINGTON overcame an early period of uncertainty to achieve a deserved 1-0 victory over Amsicora, the host club, on the first day of the European Cup Winners' Cup hockey tournament here in Sardinia yesterday.

For the first 20 minutes, Teddington made little headway and their defence was shaken by two quick breaks that put them on the alert. The breakthrough came after 22 minutes, when Laslett went through on his own only to be obstructed. McGuire converted the resulting short corner with a clean hit.

A flicked shot by Billson from another short corner soon afterwards was well saved by the Italian goalkeeper. Amsicora then ended the first half on top with a short corner, but time ran out and they were unable to complete it.

In a more fluent second half, Teddington missed several chances. A shot by McGuire from a short corner was saved by the goalkeeper. Then, shots by Gibbins and Nicklin went astray. Amsicora had a couple of chances to score, but ruined them with some erratic shooting.

The situation now looks bright for Teddington, HDM, from Holland, and Pozztowiec, from Poland. Their remaining rivals in pool B, played out a 2-2 draw.

Grange, the Edinburgh side, made a promising start against Real Club de Polo, Barcelona, in pool A, but were beaten 3-1 by a technically superior team. Leiper, in defence, and Mellor, the goalkeeper, were the outstanding members of the Scottish side.

Donald McFarlane gave Grange the lead from a penalty stroke in the sixth minute, but the Spanish team redressed the balance eight minutes into the second half with a well-taken goal by Rowan Davis, the Englishman. Further goals were added by Pablo Garcia, in the 57th minute, and Russell Garcia, from a short corner, nine minutes later.

☐ Slough's hopes of a medal in the women's European Cup Winner's Cup in Groningen took an early knock yesterday when they were held to a 1-1 draw by the host club (Alix Ramsay writes). Sally Eyre put the English national league champions ahead after 11 minutes after a penalty corner.

Muckross, from Ireland, beat Amiens, of France, 3-1, with Sarah Kelleher scoring twice. Heriot Watt University, the Scottish representatives, lost 5-0 to Tekstilshik, from Russia.

Williams applaud return of points to Coulthard

BY OLIVER HOLT

THE Williams Formula One team yesterday reacted triumphantly to the decision made by the International Motor Sport Federation (FIA) appeal tribunal to restore the six points won by David Coulthard in Brazil last month. Coulthard and Michael Schumacher, who finished second and first respectively in the race, were disqualified after it because of irregularities found in the Elf fuel used by their cars. However, the appeal tribunal overturned the decision on Thursday night.

"We are very pleased David has had his six points reinstated," Frank Williams, the team owner, said. "This is a fitting reward for his efforts during the Brazilian Grand Prix. The decision taken by the court of appeal was made after we had had a very fair hearing. We appreciate the time we were afforded to state our case and now fully accept the findings and are determined to put the whole matter behind us."

Although the drivers had their points restored, moving Schumacher into the lead in the drivers' championship with 14 points, ahead of Damon Hill with ten, the points were not restored to the Williams and Benetton teams, whose punishment was increased to a fine of $200,000 compared with the original fine of $30,000 each. "Although no team wants to forfeit six points in the constructors' championship," Williams said, "we are optimistic about our chances of closing the gap on our competitors."

Williams stressed that the increased fine had not shaken the company's confidence in Elf, the fuel suppliers for both teams. "We have worked with them for the past six seasons and feel their honesty and integrity is still intact. Any discrepancy in the fuel was neither deliberate nor performance-enhancing and this was confirmed by the judgment of the FIA international court of appeal," he said.

The decision did not please Gerhard Berger, who had been awarded the race, and his Ferrari team. The Austrian dropped to fifth in the drivers' standings and the team lost valuable points in the constructors' championship.

DRIVERS: Revised standings: 1, M Schumacher (Ger), Benetton 14pts; 2, D Hill (GB), Williams 10; equal 3, J Alesi (Fr), Ferrari and D Coulthard (GB), Williams 8; 5, G Berger (Austria), Ferrari 5; equal 6, M Hakkinen (Fin), McLaren and J Herbert (GB), Benetton 3; 8, H-H Frentzen (Ger), Sauber 2; 9, M Blundell (GB), McLaren 1.

CONSTRUCTORS: 1, Ferrari 13; 2, Williams-Renault 10; 3, Benetton-Renault 7; 4, McLaren-Mercedes 4; 5, Sauber-Ford 2.

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Ref No.: 50043

ATHLETICS

MANSFIELD: Reebok Grand Prix road race (8.2km): Winners: Men: D Suter (Notts AC) 28min 42sec; Women: N Swithenbank (Redhill RR) 31.40

GUERNSEY FESTIVAL: 10km road race at Forest: 1, T Dickinson (Blackheath Harriers) 30min 42sec. Team: 1, Whitehorse Harriers 33pts. Women: 1, P Buckingham (Guernsey AC) 37min 42sec. Salford 10km road race: 1, N Rimmer (Sale Harriers) 30min 12sec. Team: 1, Sale Harriers 12pts. Women: 1, J Rushley (Bolton Utd) 37min 15sec. Team: 1, Altrincham 40pts

BASKETBALL

ZARAGOZA: European champions' cup: Final: Real Madrid (Sp) 73 Olympiakos (Gr) 61. Third place play-off: Panathinaikos (Gr) 91 Limoges (Fr) 77

GLASGOW: European junior championships: Scotland 40 Austria 55 Belgium 100 Sweden 66

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (USA): Boston 119 Orlando 114. Miami 85 Cleveland 84. New York 110 Washington 100. Philadelphia 102 New Jersey 94. Utah 121 Golden State 102. Houston 112 Portland 99. Seattle 133 Dallas 112. LA Clippers 100, Denver 125

BOWLS

WELSH LADIES INDOOR CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS: Final: E Morgan (Radnorshire) bt A Davies (Brc Dch) 7-4, 7-0

WLIBA INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: Swansea bt Cardiff 96-64

CRICKET

Asia Cup final

India v Sri Lanka

SHARJAH (India won toss): India beat Sri Lanka by eight wickets

SRI LANKA

R S Mahanama b Kumble	15
S T Jayasuriya c Mongia b Prasad	32
A P Gurusinha run out	85
P A de Silva c Mongia b Prabhakar	13
*A Ranatunga run out	3
H P Tillekeratne c Mongia b Prasad	32
†R S Kaluwitharana b Kumble	18
R S Kalpage not out	7
W P U J C Vaas not out	8
Extras (lb 23, w 10, nb 4)	37
Total (7 wkts, 50 overs)	230

C P H Ramanayake and M Muralitharan did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-46, 2-46, 3-81, 4-89, 5-150, 6-192, 7-213.

BOWLING: Prabhakar 10-0-45-1; Srinath 9-2-38-0; Prasad 10-1-32-2; Kumble 10-1-50-2, Kapoor 10-0-32-0, Tendulkar 1-0-10-0.

INDIA

M Prabhakar c Kaluwitharana b Vaas	9
S R Tendulkar c Jayasuriya b Ramanayake	41
N S Sidhu not out	84
*M Azharuddin not out	90
Extras (lb 1, w 7, nb 1)	9
Total (2 wkts, 41.5 overs)	233

A D Jadeja, S V Manjrekar, †N R Mongia, J Srinath, A Kumble, A R Kapoor and V Prasad did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 2-58

BOWLING: Vaas 9-0-52-1; Ramanayake 8.5-0-52-1; Jayasuriya 6-0-36-0; Muralitharan 10-0-46-0; Kalpage 8-0-44-0

Umpires: N Plews (Eng) and C Mitchley (SA).

CYCLING

CARINENA, Spain: Tour of Aragon: Second stage (163km): 1, E Zabel (Ger) 4hr 35min 52sec. Overall: 1, A Sidov (Russ) 9hr 58min 38sec.

ROAD RACES: Northumberland: Newcastle Chevrot tour of the border (first stage, 67 miles): 1, J Wright (North East RT), 2hr 40min. Velo Club Stockton handicap (Thornaby, 38 miles): 1, S Barras (Middridge CRT), 1.24.54

TIME TRIALS: Buxton CC (mountain, 32 miles): 1, G Platts (Coalville Wheelers), 1.24.21. Team: TS Tameside, 4.40.09. Welwyn Wheelers (hilly, 50km): 1, J King (Pro Circuit MTB), 1.16.52. Team: Icknield RC, 4.04.55. Wyre Forest CRC (Clee Hill, hilly, 26 miles): 1, P Manning (Wrekinsport CC), 1.02.21 (course record). Team: Wrekinsport CC 3.15.31. Exeter Wheelers (25 miles): 1, N Polkinghorne (St Buddeaux CC), 53.58. Western TTA (Chippenham, 25 miles): 1, K Stewart (CC Giro), 55.44. Team: Bath CC, 2.58.25. Birkenhead North End CC (Broxton, hilly, 22 miles): 1, J Howard (Merseyside Wheelers), 48.14 (course record). Team: Mersey Tri Club, 2.40.09. Bournemouth Arrow CC (Pingwood, 10 miles): 1, C Brooks (VC Camelot), 20.32. Team: Antelope RT, 1.08.22

FOOTBALL

Thursday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: West Ham United 3 Wimbledon 0

FA YOUTH CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Tottenham Hotspur 2 Manchester City 1 (Tottenham Hotspur win 7-1 on agg)

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Inter Cardiff 1 Ton Pentre 2

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Dundalk 1 Athlone 0

WILKINSON SWORD LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final: Cliftonville 2 Crusaders 0

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City 0 Portsmouth 0; Luton Town 0 Charlton Athletic 3

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Derby 1 Coventry City 1; Liverpool 1 Blackburn Rovers 2; Aston Villa 2 Sheffield United 3. Second division: Blackpool 2 Barnsley 3; Grimsby Town 1 Port Vale 2

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Crawley Town 1 Chelmsford 0. Southern division: Waterlooville 4 Poole Town 1

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Borough 2 Fleetwood 2

DIADORA LEAGUE: First division: Bognor Regis 2 Tooting and Mitcham 1. Second division: Hungerford 2 Oxford City 3. Third division: Epsom and Ewell 1 Southall 5.

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Wisbech Town 5 Sudbury Wanderers 1.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Chatham Town 5 Slade Green 1

GERMAN LEAGUE: SV Hamburg 1 SC Freiburg 2; Bayer Uerdingen 0 Bayer Leverkusen 1; Borussia Dortmund 2 Karlsruhe SC 1.

DOHA: World youth championship: Group A: Qatar 1 Russia 1. Group B: Spain 5 Burundi 1. Group D: Australia 2 Costa Rica 0

GOLF

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina: Men's tournament: First round (US unless stated), 66: G Sauers, N Henke. 67: B Kamm, R Tway, T Lehman. 68: J Daly, G Kraft, S Jones, P Mickelson, S Lowery, C Pavin, B Ogle (Aus). 69: G Norman (Aus), N Price (Zim), F Allem (SA), D Tewell, P Jacobsen, J Delsing, T Tolles, K Triplett, D Putt, C Dennis, D A Weibring, N Lancaster. 70: J Pancvik (Swe), C Parry (Aus). 71: D Barr (Can), D Frost (SA), D Feherty (GB). 73: R Allenby (Aus), E Els (SA). 74: N Faldo (GB). 75: G Ware (NZ), M McNulty (Zim). 76: V Singh (Fiji).

GIRONA: Catalan open: Leading first-round scores (GB and Ire unless stated): 67: R Goosen (SA), P Price. 68: G Brand Jr, P Walton. 69: D Gilford, P Eales, F Tarnaud (Fr), P Simpson, S Cage, P Mitchell. 70: J Sandelin (Swe), R Claydon, J Guepy (Fr), J Arruti (Sp), M Campbell (NZ), H Clark, A Hunter, N Briggs. 71: D Carter, M Davis, G Ryall, P Moloney (Aus). 72: P Mayo, R Boxall, A Coltart, S Luna (Sp), R Wessels (SA), S Ames (Trin), L Westwood, S Dodd. * A Guillen (Sp), R Alvarez (Arg), A Sorensen (Den), M Roberts, G Emerson. 73: B Lane, J Haeggman (Swe), J-M Canizares (Sp), J Lomas, P Terravainen (US), A Sherborne, J Gervas (Sp), P Affleck, D Robertson, C Cavaes (Fr), D R Jones, M Miller, J Gronhagen (Swe), S Torrance, F Nobilo (NZ), R Karlsson (Swe), P Hedblom (Swe), D Williams.

* denotes amateur

HOCKEY

CAGLIARI, Italy: European Cup Winners' Cup: Men: Division A: Pool A: Real Club de Polo, Barcelona 3 Grange 1; Harvesthuder 1 Ekatennburg 1. Pool B: HDM 2 Pozzowiesc 2; Amsicora 0 Teddington 1.

GRONINGEN, Holland: European Cup Winners' Cup: Women: Division A: Pool A: Russelsheim 3 HF Lorenzoni 0; Amiens SC 1 Muckross 3. Pool B: Tekstilshik 5 Heriot Watt University 0; Groningen 1 Slough 1.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Detroit 3 San Jose 0, Winnipeg 5 Louis 2, Anaheim 4 Calgary 2. Vancouver 4 Edmonton 6.

MOTOR RALLYING

NAIROBI: Safari rally: Leading standings (after 16 stages): 1, Y Fujimoto (Japan) Toyota Ser 22min 32sec; 2, K Shinozuka (Japan) Mitsubishi at 12min 08sec; 3, R Burns (GB) Subaru at 17:35.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter Championship

First division

Oldham 28 Salford 16

Oldham: Tries: Neal 2, Gibson, Lord, Stephenson. Goals: Topping 4. Salford: Tries: Panapa, Quigley. Goals: Blakeley 4. Att: 3,965.

Widnes 16 Warrington 37

Widnes: Tries: Makin, McCurrie, Ruane. Goals: Devereux 2. Warrington: Tries: Betsman, Davies, Forster, Penny, Roper, Shelford. Goals: Davies 6. Dropped goal: Southorpe. Att: 5,917.

Wigan 34 St Helens 18

Wigan: Tries: Paul 2, Betts, Hall, Offiah, Tuilagamala. Goals: Botica 5. St Helens: Tries: Cooper 2, Prescott. Goals: Goulding 3. Att: 26,334.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	28	26	0	2	1048	370	52
Leeds	27	22	1	4	773	470	45
Warrington	28	18	2	8	741	505	38
St Helens	28	18	1	9	806	606	37
Halifax	27	17	2	8	713	488	36
Castleford	26	16	2	8	701	522	34
Bradford	27	15	1	11	739	574	31
Sheffield	27	12	0	15	532	643	24
Oldham	27	11	1	15	498	658	23
Salford	28	9	1	18	564	741	19
Workington	27	9	1	17	428	703	19
Wakefield	27	9	0	18	406	665	18
Featherstone	28	8	1	19	462	800	17
Widnes	27	8	1	18	421	646	17
Hull	27	6	1	20	517	758	13
Doncaster	27	5	1	21	425	859	11

Does not include Bradford v Halifax; Doncaster v Sheffield; Featherstone v Castleford; Leeds v Hull; Wakefield v Workington.

Second division

Barrow	14	Carlisle	6
London Broncos	60	Leigh	6
Swinton	16	Rochdale	14
Whitehaven	60	Highfield	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Keighley	27	21	1	5	834	305	43
Batley	27	21	0	6	664	379	42
London Broncos	28	19	1	8	686	446	39
Huddersfield	27	18	2	7	788	458	38
Whitehaven	27	18	0	9	691	455	36
Hull KR	27	16	1	10	772	431	33
Rochdale	28	16	0	12	743	520	32
Dewsbury	27	15	1	11	640	450	31
Ryedale York	27	13	2	12	646	523	28
Hunslet	27	14	0	13	545	691	28
Swinton	28	11	0	17	538	721	22
Barnsley	26	10	0	16	496	525	20
Leigh	26	10	0	16	564	758	20
Carlisle	28	7	0	21	507	836	14
Barrow	28	5	0	23	402	775	10
Highfield	28	1	0	27	212	1466	2

Does not include Batley v Dewsbury; Huddersfield v Ryedale York; Hull KR v Keighley; Hunslet v Bramley.

WINFIELD CUP: Sixth round: South Sydney 6 Sydney City Roosters 26; Perth Western Reds 22 Sydney Tigers 6.

RUGBY UNION

JOHANNESBURG: International match: South Africa 60 Western Samoa 8.

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: First division: Newbridge 8 Cardiff 32.

CLUB MATCHES: Camborne 16 Penzance 13; Redruth 21 St. Mary's Hospital 10; Weston-super-Mare 51 Esher 8.

SWIMMING

EDINBURGH: Uncle Ben's world challenge: Winners: Men: 400m freestyle: A Kasvio (Fin) 3:56.22. 100m breaststroke: F Deburghgraeve (Bel) 1:01.85. 100m butterfly: P Rhynalin (Ukr) 55.18. 200m medley: A Czerne (Hun) 2:02.86. Women: 400m freestyle: C Poll (C Rica) 4:14.48. 100m breaststroke: B Becue (Bel) 1:10.83. 100m butterfly: I de Bruin (Holl) 1:01.72. 200m medley: B Becue (Bel) 2:19.02.

TENNIS

TOKYO: Japan open: Men: Quarter-finals: W Ferreira (SA) bt J Bjorkman (Swe) 6-3, 6-2; M Chang (US) bt J Apell (Swe) 4-6, 7-6, 6-3; A Agassi (US) bt S Draper (Aus) 6-4, 6-3; J Courier (US) bt T Enqvist (Swe) 7-6, 6-0. Women: Semi-final: K Date (Japan) bt N Miyagi (Japan) 6-1, 6-2.

HOUSTON: Women's tournament: Second round: S Cecchini (It) bt M Sanchez Lorenzo (Sp) 6-2, 6-7, 6-2; S Hack (Ger) bt S DeLone (US) 7-5, 6-4; M Babel (Ger) bt W Probst (Ger) 5-7, 7-6, 6-2. Quarter-final: S Graf (Ger) bt T Whitlinger-Jones (US) 6-2, 6-1.

BARCELONA: Spanish open: Quarter-finals: G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt A Berasategui (Sp) 1-6, 6-4, 6-4; M Larsson (Swe) bt J Arrese (Sp) 6-3, 6-1; T Muster (Austria) bt C Costa (Sp) 6-3, 3-6, 7-5; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt T Champion (Fr) 6-4, 6-3.

TELFORD: LTA national championships: Finals: Girls: F Lishman (Northumberland) bt T Callow (Middlesex) 6-1, 6-3. Boys: I Bates (Hants) bt D Sherwood (Yorks) 6-3, 6-2.

YACHTING

SAN DIEGO: America's cup: Challenger finals: Team New Zealand bt oneAustralia, 1-57. Series: Team New Zealand leads best-of-9 series, 2-0. Defender finals: Stars and Stripes bt Mighty Mary, 2-50.

BOC CHALLENGE: Solo round the world race: Final stage (from Punta del Este): Leading positions (at 09:40GMT yesterday with miles to Charleston, US): Class 1: 1, Sceta Calberson (C Auguin, Fr) 3,258miles; 2, Vendée Enterprise (J van den Heede, Fr) 3,362; 3, Hunter's Child (S Pettengill, US) 3,393. Class 2: 1, True Blue (D Adams, Aus) 3,441; 2, Kodak (G Soldini, It) 4,044; 3, Newcastle Australia (A Nebauer, Aus) 4,418.

GOLF

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions	Runs to resort		Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	10	200	good	varied	wom	cloud	-1	12/4
(All higher, open pistes in good shape and skiing well)								
Obergurgl	50	150	good	varied	fair	fine	2	14/4
(Excellent April skiing; lifts open until May 1)								
St Anton	45	420	good	heavy	slush	cloud	-1	13/4
(Best skiing above Galzig and Gampen mid-stations)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	185	450	fair	spring	fair	fine	1	10/4
(Typical spring conditions; plenty of enjoyable skiing)								
Les Arcs	115	400	good	varied	fair	cloud	1	29/3
(All areas open and skiable; Arc 2000 open until May 6)								
Val Thorens	200	370	good	varied	soft	fog	4	13/4
(Plenty of snow and skiing for several weeks to come)								
SWITZERLAND								
Mürren	70	165	fair	varied	fair	fair	5	13/4
(Plenty of snow but poor visibility because of low cloud)								
Verbier	25	200	good	varied	slush	fine	6	13/4
(Excellent Easter skiing and enough snow to last until May)								
Zermatt	60	290	good	varied	wom	cloud	-1	10/4
(Still good skiing on all runs above 2,400 metres)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

Remorseless Hendry leaves newcomer trailing

BY PHIL YATES

LIKE so many before him, Stefan Mazrocis encountered a baptism of fire on his debut at the Crucible theatre in Sheffield yesterday. After the opening session of his first-round match against Stephen Hendry, in the Embassy world snooker championship, Mazrocis trailed 8-1.

Mazrocis, whose father is Latvian but who has lived in Leicester all his life, found out the hard way how playing one of the game's leading exponents in its most famous venue can be the ultimate test of nerve.

Hendry, 26, attempting to capture the title for the fourth year in succession, made few mistakes, began explosively and wore the kind of intense expression which the Americans would describe as a "big-match game face".

Although Mazrocis, the world No 73, has the distinction of being the most recent player to compile a maximum break in professional competition — in Munich last month — he could do little as Hendry smoothly established a 6-0 lead.

Hendry, who trounced Danny Fowler 10-1 in the first round of the 1993 championship and Surinder Gill by the same score last year, accounted for the first two frames with breaks of 90 and 128.

Only the third frame, which Hendry claimed by clearing from the last red to blue, looked like interrupting the pattern of one-sided exchanges, until Mazrocis won the seventh thanks to a break of 74, allowing him to take the frame 92-0 and earning the biggest cheer of the morning for the newcomer.

That effort dispelled mounting fears that Mazrocis was destined to join Eddie Charlton, beaten 10-0 by John Parrott in the first round of the 1992 championship, as the only players ever to suffer the ignominy of a whitewash at the Crucible.

Hendry, though, swiftly regained the momentum. He cleared up from the last red to steal the eighth frame on the black and subsequently added runs of 38 and 45 in the ninth to leave himself requiring only two of the remaining ten on for victory on resumption last night.

Ken Doherty, who defeated Hendry in the final of the Regal Scottish Masters this season, is considered to be one of his main challengers. He goes into the concluding session against Mark Davis this morning unexpectedly 5-4 adrift after a roller-coaster early period.

Davis, of St Leonards-on-Sea, gave Terry Griffiths a tough first-round battle last year before losing 10-7, and, once again, Davis belied his occupation of 65th place in the world rankings during the early stages. Contributions of 73, 40, 45 and 60 helped him lead 3-1, and, after Doherty had moved 4-3 ahead, Davis won the eighth frame by potting a long pink and the ninth comfortably to secure his overnight advantage.

Assuming that Hendry does not collapse, his opponent in the last 16 looks certain to be Tony Drago, of Malta, who built an 8-1 lead over Paul Cavney, of Leeds.

Regardless of the importance of the occasion, Drago rarely compromises his policy of all-out aggression. This was no exception as the Maltese took on, and for the most part potted, a series of risky shots.

Drago, the world No 16, enjoyed a benevolent run of the balls as well, never more so than in the sixth frame, which, to his delight, he stole on the black with a colour clearance after an outrageous fluke on the yellow.

Peter Ebdon, the Irish Masters champion, whose pre-championship preparation has been handicapped by bronchitis, also appeared on course for a convincing victory, over Rod Lawler, of Liverpool. On the way to a 8-1 lead, Ebdon compiled a 107 break in the second frame.

SCORES: First round: S Hendry (Scot) leads S Mazrocis (Eng) 8-1, A Drago (Malta) leads P Cavney (Eng) 8-1, M Davis (Eng) leads K Doherty (Ire) 5-4; P Ebdon (Eng) leads R Lawler (Eng) 8-1.



Hendry: few mistakes

Ambrose's problems give edge to Australia



John Woodcock says West Indies' hopes may rest on the return to form of their injured strike bowler

HAVING routed West Indies in Barbados and rattled them in Antigua, Australia have the best chance of any visiting side in the past 15 years of winning a Test series in the Caribbean. They are playing, at the moment, the more disciplined and confident cricket and, unlike West Indies, they have a settled side.

If Australia were to consider a change for the third Test match, which starts next Friday, it would probably be Ponting for Blewett, who is finding life more difficult than he did against England earlier this year. Blewett's Test innings then were 102 not out, 12, 20 and 115; against West Indies, he has scored 14, 11 and 19; but he is a livewire in the field and Ponting will almost certainly have to bide his time.

With Ambrose so out of sorts, too much of the West Indies bowling is having to be left to Walsh, and on two pitches that have at no time been difficult, only Lara (twice) and Hooper have passed 50. It is very rare in the West Indies, let alone in Barbados and Antigua, for successive Tests to go by with a top individual score of only 88. In the corresponding matches a year ago, Stewart (twice), Atherton and Smith made hundreds for England, not to mention Lara's 375.

Since returning to the West Indies side against New Zealand in Christchurch at the beginning of February, Ambrose has taken eight wickets in 108.1 overs at 28 apiece. In the same games, Walsh has taken 27 wickets at 13 apiece. In the four series he has so far played against England, starting in 1988, Ambrose has taken 96 wickets at 19 apiece; yet in Antigua, Richardson was reluctant to bowl him.

Almost as much as a stress fracture, bowlers fear tendinitis in their bowling shoulder. It could threaten Shane Warne's career one day, and it is what Ambrose is suffering from. It caused him to come home from England just before the end of the 1994 season, when he had taken 77 first-class wickets at 14 apiece and was comfortably heading the bowling averages.

Ambrose does not dissemble. "I've been way below my best," he said. "I know I haven't done myself or the team justice in this series. I feel under pressure because the West Indian crowds don't expect anything from me but the highest standards. I have been down before and I'll bounce back again. So will West Indies."

The surgeon whom Ambrose has visited in New York considered surgery unnecessary. Instead, he recommended weight training to strengthen the muscles. For an hour or so on Sunday evening, he was no fun at all for Taylor and Slater to play; but it was his only hostile spell of the series.

Until the rain spoilt it, Antigua provided as good a modern Test match as one could wish to see. I say "modern" because it lacked any worthwhile West Indian spin bowling. The catching was brilliant, the plot riveting, and, even after the draw had become inevitable on Thursday evening, there was an absorbing duel between Lara and Warne, which ended with honours about even. Warne may say that he would as soon bowl against left-handers as right-handers, but he must be getting a little tired of seeing the front pad of the West Indian left-handers being so constantly thrust at him.



Ambrose: admits to feeling pressure

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 216 (C A Walsh 6 for 54). Second Innings 300 for 7 dec (D C Boon 67, S R Waugh 65 not out, M E Waugh 61).

WEST INDIES: First Innings 280 (B C Lara 88).

Second Innings

S C Williams not out	31
*R B Richardson b Reiffel	2
B C Lara b Julian	43
J C Adams not out	3
Extras (nb 1)	1
Total (2 wkts)	80

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-69.

BOWLING: Reiffel 6-2-12-1; Julian 5-2-15-1; Warne 7-0-18-0; McGrath 8-2-20-0; M E Waugh 6-2-15-0.

Umpires: S Buckner (West Indies) and D R Shepherd (England). Match referee: Majid Khan (Pakistan).

Cambridge battle bravely to delay progress

BY SIMON WILDE

FENNER'S (second day of three): Yorkshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 308 runs ahead of Cambridge University

HAVING been treated without mercy in the field on Thursday, Cambridge University must have expected the worst from Yorkshire's bowlers yesterday. A first-innings total of 174, and a deficit of 305, suggests that their fears were justified but their performance was, in fact, a triumph of a kind. For a period after tea it looked as though the students would succeed in batting throughout the day, and that was certainly not what Martyn Moxon, the Yorkshire captain, had had in mind.

The day could have hardly begun less auspiciously for Cambridge. Before their opening pair, Ragnauth and Cake, could resume they had seen two of their number, Ratledge and Clarke, depart for Addenbrooke's hospital to check on thumbs damaged during a knocking-up session. Ratledge returned with an all-clear and batted with grit to top-score the innings with 56 but Clarke's thumb was fractured. He too, though, batted pluckily and held out for 16 overs.

Cambridge's woes did not end there. Early in his innings, Churton, their wicketkeeper, was struck on his left hand by a short-pitched ball from White and, after following the now well-trodden path to the casualty ward, was informed that the bone was broken and that he would not play again for three weeks.

Despite these setbacks, Cambridge refused to sell their wickets cheaply, even though it was often hard to see where the next runs were coming from. When, some 40 minutes into the day, Hamilton removed Ragnauth and Cake in successive overs, and five overs later Robinson had Battye leg-before, it was easy to think that Yorkshire had broken the back of the resistance, but the next seven wickets were 70 overs in the coming.

They might have required even longer but for a smart piece of work at square leg by Vaughan, who ran out Carroll and had not Cake fallen to a fine catch by Bevan, who maintained the reputation of Australian out-cricket by holding on to a full-blooded stroke at point. Cake, who spent the end of last summer with Surrey, has returned to academic life no more tempted to pursue a career in county cricket than he was a year ago.

The only time that runs came freely for Cambridge was during an eighth-wicket partnership of 55 between Ratledge, who batted two for hours 40 minutes, and Haste. Moxon had exhausted his main options and tried Vaughan's off-breaks before White finally made the breakthrough, removing Ratledge and Janisch with successive balls. Hamilton then returned to claim the final wicket and his best figures for Yorkshire of three for 41.

Stemp, much-vaunted after his winter exploits in India, bowled with a nice loop and a tidy line — his 18 overs cost just 23 runs — but he scarcely had the batsmen floundering. White carried himself gingerly through three short spells and looked no more than 90 per cent of the way to a full recovery from the side strain that cut short his tour of Australia.

YORKSHIRE: First Innings 479 for 3 dec (D Byas 181, M D Moxon 130, M G Bevan 113 not out, C White 50 not out).

Second Innings

A P Grayson not out	3
M P Vaughan not out	0
Total (no wkt)	3

BOWLING: Haste 1-0-1-0, Whitall 1-0-2-0

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings.

R T Ragnauth lbw b Hamilton	12
R D Cake c Bevan b Hamilton	19
J P Carroll run out	28
R A Battye lbw b Robinson	1
†D R H Churton lbw b Stemp	14
J Ratledge lbw b White	56
L P Clarke c Blakey b Hartley	14
*A R Whitall c Byas b Hartley	7
N J Haste not out	15
A N Janisch lbw b White	0
J W O Freeth c Blakey b Hamilton	2
Extras (lb 6)	6
Total (93.2 overs)	174

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-29, 2-36, 3-41, 4-74, 5-78, 6-106, 7-116, 8-171, 9-171

BOWLING: Hartley 20-6-36-2, Hamilton 22.2-9-41-3, Robinson 14-2-32-1, White 16-7-31-2; Stemp 18-8-23-1, Vaughan 3-1-5-0

Umpires: H D Bird and R Julian.

WINSTON BYNORTH



Blakey leads the shout as Churton, the Cambridge wicketkeeper, is out leg-before off Stemp at Fenner's yesterday

Late collapse destroys students' good work

BY JACK BAILEY

THE PARKS (second day of three): Durham, with all second-innings wickets in hand, lead Oxford University by 144 runs

IT WAS one of those days when nothing could be taken for granted. First, Durham, opting to bat on with the aim of taking their score from the overnight 272 for four into the realms of 350 before declaring, lost five wickets for 16 runs before being saved from complete disaster by their last wicket pair. Then Oxford, 133-3 at tea and cruising comfortably, lost seven wickets for 17 runs in 14 overs.

Until tea, it had been very much Oxford's day. The Parks was pleasantly full, even early on when MacRobert and Mather fulfilled the promise they had shown on Thursday by slicing through the Durham middle order.

The ball swung late for both of them and, although the partnership of 34 between Brown and Wood in double-quick time enabled Roseberry to make a face-saving declaration, Durham were far from in command.

This was a state of affairs that continued for some time. Having survived easily enough with Sutcliffe for 45 minutes before lunch against the new ball, Gregor Macmillan, the Oxford captain, took it in to his head to give the bowling an all-out charge. Alan Walker bore the brunt of his bold but maverick display, but there was suffering on all sides as Macmillan took 36 off 30 balls in advancing from 10 to 46 while his partner remained static.

It was all too good to last but, even after Wood had removed Macmillan's off stump, the early Oxford batting remained assured. Nobody was more composed or effective than Iain Sutcliffe, an organised left-hander on Leicestershire's books. Both he and Gupte looked in little trouble while adding 66.

It was the running out of Andrew Ridley, Oxford's second Bradman scholar, which proved the catalyst for collapse. Sent back by Gupte, he lost his wicket to the last ball before tea. Doubtless upset by this, Gupte succumbed to a wide ball with the score on 166-3 and the second big collapse of the day was on. Down went six wickets in seven overs for eight runs.

The Dark Blues had thrown away a golden opportunity to finish the day at least on level terms. But they had already done enough in this match to show that they will be a force to be reckoned with in games to come this season.

DURHAM: First Innings

*M A Roseberry c Townsend b Mather	90
M Saxelby c Macmillan b MacRobert	16
J E Morris c Ricketts b Macmillan	99
J A Daley b Mather	20
J I Longley c Macmillan b Mather	37
S Hutton c Macmillan b MacRobert	15
†C W Scott b MacRobert	0
J Boiling c Townsend b MacRobert	0
J Wood not out	19
A Walker c Macmillan b Mather	0
S J E Brown not out	16
Extras (lb 5, w 1, nb 4)	10
Total (9 wkts dec, 112 overs)	322

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-29, 2-182, 3-211, 4-254, 5-273, 6-274, 7-274, 8-287, 9-288

BOWLING: MacRobert 28-2-93-4, Martin 4-0-22-0; Mather 27.5-65-4, Rickens 12-3-43-0; Macmillan 24-5-53-1, Malik 16-6-35-0, Kendall 1-0-6-0

Second Innings

M Saxelby not out	3
S Hutton not out	2
Total (no wkt)	5

BOWLING: MacRobert 2-0-2-0; Mather 2-0-3-0

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings

*G I Macmillan b Wood	46
I J Sutcliffe c Scott b Saxelby	38
C M Gupte c Roseberry b Brown	48
A C Ridley run out	6
W S Kendall c Scott b Brown	17
H S Malik c Roseberry b Boiling	0
N F C Martin c Scott b Brown	3
A D MacRobert c Saxelby b Boiling	0
J D Ricketts b Brown	0
†C J Townsend not out	7
D P Mather run out	1
Extras (lb 5, nb 12)	17
Total (78.4 overs)	183

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-58, 2-124, 3-133, 4-166, 5-167, 6-173, 7-174, 8-174, 9-174

BOWLING: Brown 23 4-8-54-4; Wood 15-5-37-1, Boiling 25-13-29-2; Walker 8-2-43-0, Saxelby 5-2-15-1.

Umpires: J W Holder and M J Kitchen.

IN BRIEF

Obree's return is a vain pursuit

GRAEME OBREE, Britain's 4,000 metres world cycling record holder, was beaten on his track comeback yesterday on yet another home-made bike but a non-controversial designed machine (Peter Bryan writes).

The Scot, rebuilding his career after the ignominy of disqualification, when defending his world pursuit title last year and then sacked by his new French team, was caught and eliminated after seven minutes 38 seconds racing in a ten minutes pursuit race at Herne Hill.

The original eight-man race came down to Obree and Rob Hayles, the national kilometre champion, who was runner-up in the event last year. Obree had been under immediate pressure from Bryan Taylor, and amateur starting behind him, but was able to hold off the challenge and then Hayles closed rapidly and was in the same straight as Obree.

One lap later the gap was down to 30 metres and Hayles caughtObree within seconds.

Indian victory

Cricket: India, the holders, beat Sri Lanka by eight wickets yesterday to win the Asia Cup title in Sharjah for the third time, with more than seven overs to spare. India scored 233 for two; Mohammed Azharuddin, their captain, made an unbeaten 90 and Navjot Sidhu scored 84 not out.

Ajit Wadekar, the India manager, said he was retiring after after completing a successful three-season term. Wadekar, 54, said he will not seek an extension of his term.

Equator passed

Yachting: Christophe Auguin, the leader of the BOC Challenge solo round-the-world race, re-crossed the Equator last night, 87 miles ahead of fellow Frenchman Jean Luc van den Heede on the final dash back to Charleston, South Carolina. David Adams, of Australia, who leads class 2, has extended his lead over Giovanni Soldini to more than 400 miles.

Graf through

Tennis: Steffi Graf, the world No 1, needed just 56 minutes to beat Tami Whitlinger-Jones, of the United States, 6-2, 6-1 to earn a place in the semi-finals of the Houston championships in Texas on Thursday night.

Fahey leads

Real tennis: Robert Fahey, the world champion, took a 3-1 lead over Wayne Davies, the former world champion, on the first day of their best-of-13 set match in the world championship in Hobart.

Putter ushers in Welsh centenary

John Hopkins celebrates the start of a special year for amateur golf in Wales

THE Duncan Putter traditionally marks the start of competitive amateur golf in Wales. The four-round strokeplay event is held at Southerndown Golf Club, near Bridgend, over Easter at a time of biting cold, mist, rain and all those other elements that feature so prominently in spring in Great Britain.

This year's Putter, which starts this morning, is special because men's amateur golf in Wales is celebrating its centenary. One of the high points of the year will be the Walker Cup match against the United States to be held at Royal Porthcawl, just along the coast, early in September. Clive Brown, a Welshman, will captain the home team.

The Duncan Putter is named after the family whose deeds for and in Welsh golf are unmatched. Family members won 14 Welsh championships. Tony Duncan, the senior surviving member, was the first Welshman to reach the final of the Amateur and the first Welshman to captain a Walker Cup team. He was also the first playing captain not to play himself in a Walker Cup match.

It was in 1959 that Tony Duncan, who learnt most of his golf at Southerndown, presented the Putter for competition among Welsh players, a Celtic equivalent of the Brabazon Trophy. To this day, the Putter hangs on the wall above the dining room door at the club.

Sadly, the event this year is the first from which Duncan will be absent. Though well enough to serve a visitor with tea and chocolate cake at his home in Hindhead, Surrey on Thursday afternoon, some faulty internal mechanics prevented him from travelling to South Wales.

The Putter can be as much a test of character as of golf. When the wind blows, Southerndown is very bleak. When it rains as well, as it did last year, then it all becomes very trying. Four of the past five Duncan Putters have been shortened because of bad weather.

Many believe Southerndown to be the best course in Wales and yesterday, beneath a warm sun, it looked glorious, its fairways closely cropped, its greens shimmering like glass. Visitors to the club and members alike were welcomed warmly by Ben, a golden retriever who pads around with a golf ball in his mouth, and by the benevolent and wise presence of Alan Bruce, the competition organiser.

Gary Wolstenholme, the former Amateur champion, defends his title from a field that includes, as well as almost all of Wales's leading players, 16 Englishmen with handicaps of scratch or better. Assuming that such benevolent conditions persist, Wolstenholme will never have a better chance of beating the tournament record of 278, two under par, set by Peter McEvoy in 1987.

Rested Price bounces back to claim first-round lead

PHILLIP PRICE, of Wales, and Gordon Brand Jr, of Scotland, shrugged off back problems to mount strong challenges during a wind-swept first round of the Catalonia Open in Girona yesterday. Price, in his first tournament for a month, was the joint-leader with Retief Goosen, of South Africa, while Brand, struggling with a back problem of his own, was one shot behind.

Though the weather was dry and sunny, the players were buffeted by a wind that grew stronger throughout the day, not that Price, after his 67, five under par, was too concerned. "I played dreadfully in my last tournament in Portugal a month ago," he said, "but, after four weeks off, things are looking a lot better. My back has been a problem for the past six months and I'm having further treatment this week."

Price owed his score to a brilliant finish and, after starting at the 10th, he was only level par for his first 11 holes. Then, he drove 255 yards over an out-of-bounds corner and sank a 15-foot putt for an eagle two at the 384-yard 3rd hole to breathe new life into his play. "It certainly set me off because I birdied the 6th, 7th and 8th as well to come home in 32," he said.

Brand is also having treatment to his back, which he aggravated on a fishing trip near his home near Bristol last week, but he had the most consistent round of the day with 14 pars and four birdies in his 68. David Gilford, fresh from his 24th place in his first Masters in the United States last weekend, shot a promising first round 69.

☐ Nick Faldo hit a disappointing 74, three over par, in the first round of the Heritage Classic at Hilton Head, South Carolina. David Feherty, of Northern Ireland, had a 71, which leaves him five strokes behind Gene Sauers and Nolan Henke, the leaders. Greg Norman, who shot 69, later withdrew with a back injury.

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Saturday portrait: Alan Shearer, by Rob Hughes, football correspondent

Perfection remains the ultimate goal for Rovers' striker supreme

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN



There is something about a Geordie and the game of football, something binding between player and community even when they are miles apart. Alan Shearer, born and bred in the "Toon" though not yet, despite Kevin Keegan's reported willingness to spend £8 million to repatriate him, a wearer of Newcastle United colours, epitomises the North East clamour for genuineness. He combines down-to-earth honesty with the ability to put the ball in the net. No excuses, no boasts.

Shearer has scored, in successive seasons, 31 times in 34 full league games for Blackburn Rovers, putting him alongside Jimmy Greaves as the only player in the top division to score 30 goals in successive seasons in England since the Second World War.

He received, on Sunday, the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) award as players' player of the year. "It's a great, great honour to see my name among some of them who won it in the past," he said. "To be voted by fellow players who want to stop you playing, who want to kick you nine months of the year, is the highest accolade."

Not true. At 24, Shearer is normally all seeing, all knowing, but, if he truly believes that that accolade is the ultimate in his life, then he is unaware of what is happening at his temporary home of Blackburn. There, in the parks and the disused grounds of former cotton mills, the kids cavort like spring lambs in their replica Rovers shirts, No 9 and the name Shearer proudly on their backs. There, where they have been waiting for a centre forward to lead the team to its first championship for 81 years, there has been an affinity towards Shearer from the moment he arrived for the then astonishing British record fee of £3.2 million in August 1992.

Some Blackburn folk willingly put Shearer on a par with Bob Crompton, Ron Clayton and Bryan Douglas, men who not only wore the blue and white halved shirts for a footballing lifetime, but also came from the locality and stayed long after their careers had finished. Of course, the old-timers who remember a championship team are passing away, and one who died a year ago paid to Shearer what I would regard as the ultimate compliment.

Robert Wright, a retired fitter who was four when Rovers last won the title, and whose stepson is John Byrom, a former Rovers player, was not keen on the millions from Jack Walker to resuscitate the footballing dreams. "It's all about money, isn't it, it's ridiculous in a town of so much unemployment, making players millionaires," Wright reasoned. He paused, his eyes brightened, and he added: "Now there's one exception to that, this Shearer. He's a good player and a good lad. There's so many trying to injure him, but week in, week out, he's the one player that I've seen that anyone could say is worth the money."

> **'Players are paid ridiculous amounts, but week in, week out, he is one worth all that money'**

Injure him? Shearer's style, his ruthlessness in pursuing goals, his unwillingness to take his eye off the ball no matter that the likes of Neil Ruddock may not exactly be looking for the same object when they tackle him, is renowned. "I know I'm going to get kicked and shoved," Shearer has said. "I know the elbows are coming in. As long as you're willing to accept it, and give as good as you get, there's no point in moaning. I certainly give it out, defenders give it back. I'll leave it to the referees to decide the rights and wrongs."

He said that shortly after coming back from a knee operation so demanding of surgical skill, so questioning of the will of the athlete, that it has wiped some of the most illustrious names out of football. It is remarkable to think that that surgery was performed barely two years ago, and that, last season, Kenny Dalglish, the Blackburn manager, wisely and caringly held back Shearer, like a young bull mastiff on a lead, for the first two months of the season, granting him against his own impatience the true healing time that the body requires.

Dalglish, succinctly, has put into perspective the value of Shearer to Blackburn Rovers. "He has tremendous ability, but also tremendous willingness to work for other people," he said. Others have used many more words to illustrate the same thing. Two England managers, and David Platt, the England captain, point to the sheer (pun intended) effort of a self-made player. They agree that others may be more accomplished in the air, with the right or the left foot, or with their first touch, than Shearer. Yet Platt, who plays in Italy, where many believe Shearer is destined to go, insists that he has not seen a man more capable of reaching such a high standard in all gamuts of attacking play.

Here again, Shearer's appeal across the generation gap comes into perspective. Jack Hixon, the North East scout who first set eyes on Shearer when he was a 13-year-old, and who followed him from Wallsend Boys' Club to Southampton and then to Blackburn, has never doubted his ability or character.

Unusually in the modern era, neither has Shearer forgotten his first mentor, for he speaks to Hixon on a daily basis. "Some might find it difficult to understand the closeness between a 24-year-old superstar and a 73-year-old grandad-figure like me," Hixon said at Wembley last September, where Shearer had supplied tickets for Hixon and his wife to come down from Newcastle. "Alan telephones me every day, even if only to tell me how hot it is in the Seychelles while he's on holiday."

Hixon, and indeed those who have schooled Shearer along the way, including Dave Merrington, the Southampton scout and another Geordie, are convinced that attitude has propelled the player this far.

Merrington concedes that, when he went to Southampton, Shearer lacked pace, could not "trap a bag of cement", and had to work like the devil to build his game. Yet he had, even then, the strong thighs, the bravery of a Mark Hughes in the making. At 17, he burst onto Southampton's scene with a hat-trick on his debut against Arsenal, and then the momentum slowed.

The goals, in comparison with the Blackburn years, trickled in — just 23 in 105 league games. Maybe it was because Matthew Le Tissier was the main attraction, maybe because Southampton needed far more chasing back, far more selflessness. No matter, Ray Harford, then coaching the England under-21 side, knew the potential, and Harford became assistant to Dalglish.

It seems so utterly obvious now that they should use Walker's money — money built on steel production — to purchase the one player in England who puts genuine steel, forceful, resolute, determined spirit, into a championship force. Though he is taking Italian lessons, though he may sooner or later achieve his boyhood ambition to play in front of the Gallowgate End, where he watched Keegan play for Newcastle, his time in Lancashire has embedded him into the once proud, and for so long fallow, history.

When he leaves, they may dedicate a stand to him, perhaps one of the "Jack Walker" stands. Yet Shearer, no paragon, as his recent petulant display towards linesmen has shown — an impatient man, according to his wife — knows that perfection is a way off.

The runners-up in the PFA poll, were Jürgen Klinsmann and Le Tissier. Now, Shearer does not exude the joy in performance of Klinsmann; he is never likely to be blessed with the innate control of Le Tissier; which means that Shearer is two touches off perfection as a model professional.

THE TIMES

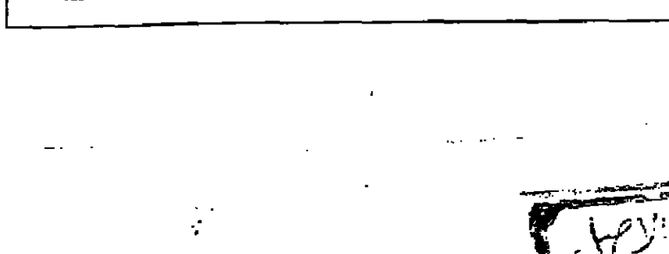
Four weddings and a Caribbean honeymoon

To celebrate the retail release on video of the much-acclaimed *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *The Times* is giving four couples the chance to win one of four honeymoons in the Caribbean, courtesy of the specialist tour operator Caribbean Connection. The destinations are Barbados, Antigua, St Lucia and Grenada.

Each winning couple will also receive an elegant Pronuptia bridal dress worth £600, plus suit hire for the groom; a pair of gold wedding rings together worth £300 from Mappin & Webb; and a case of Cordon Rouge champagne from the House of Mumm.

Two hundred runners-up will receive a copy of the video of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*; another 50 readers will receive copies of the film's soundtrack.

Destination in the sun



EACH of the four weeks of the competition will feature a different idyllic destination. St Lucia is one of the more dramatic islands in the Caribbean, with its volcano, magnificent rainforests and colourful fishing villages.

Our winners will spend seven nights at Jalousie (pictured above), the secluded resort between the islands famed "Twin Peaks" — the Pitons. Luxurious and elegant the hotel offers a wealth of complimentary activities including watersports and a spa programme. All meals and drinks are included.

Caribbean Connection offers the most extensive range of luxury hotels, villas and yachts in the region, along with more than 20 years of experience. The company has a department specialising in arrangements for couples wanting to get married abroad and many of their hotels offer exclusive wedding and honeymoon packages.

Four lucky brides will choose a dress worth £600 from wedding attire specialists Pronuptia Youngs. Their nationwide chain of stores offers exclusive collections by Jeff Banks and Laura Ashley plus their own label. Grooms will choose their wedding suits from Youngs Formal Wear.

Mappin & Webb, who are giving away our wedding rings, offer a wide range of traditional and contemporary jewellery. For details of your nearest Mappin & Webb branch, and a copy of their latest ring catalogue, phone 0171 409 3377.

● As a special offer to readers, Caribbean Connection will reduce by £200 per couple the cost of an island honeymoon taken before November 30, 1995. For further information and a brochure phone 01244 329556.



For your chance to win one of four dream honeymoons in the Caribbean collect any four of the eight tokens which are appearing in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. Token five appears below and your sixth token will appear in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow. Send them with your name and address to: Four Weddings Contest, 5 Britnons Court, EC8S 6NG. The holiday must be taken by November 30, 1995, and is subject to availability.

The winners and their honeymoon destinations will be selected at random from all entries received by the closing date of May 6 1995.

Four Weddings and a Funeral attracted huge audiences in both Britain and America. The film has now been released in the UK by Polygram Video at the special price of £14.99, available until April 30.

four Weddings and a funeral
Token Five

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Absentees present coach with problems

BY MIKE ROSEWELL
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

THE countdown to the 1996 Olympic Games begins this weekend for British rowers, when 58 men and 42 women will endure five days of intensive racing and testing in Hazewinkel, Belgium. The initial aim is to gain selection for the world championships in Tampere, Finland later in the year. This is vital for Olympic places since, for the first time, nations have to qualify for entry and 75 per cent of the places in Atlanta will be decided by the results from Tampere.

Four Olympic champions — Steve Redgrave, Matthew Pinsent and the Searle brothers — have to make their point with the rest. Redgrave aiming, in Atlanta, for a fourth gold.

The main interest at the weekend will centre on the efforts of Jürgen Grobler, the men's chief coach, to form a lightweight coxless four and to find a double sculls partner for Peter Haining, the world lightweight singles champion. Grobler's efforts to establish his Olympic heavyweight eight have not been helped since five of the Nottingham heavyweights have declined the invitation to attend.

The five concerned have heavy commitments, but Nottingham coaches do not hide their criticisms of a national system which they perceive as London based, lacking in coaching direction, and expensive in time and money. "It is written in slabs of stone," Lennie Robertson, the new Nottingham coach, who will be in Hazewinkel with the invited Nottingham lightweights, said.

Brian Armstrong, the international rowing manager, said yesterday: "We have bent over backwards to help them. In the end, the athletes, and the British team, lose out." He also suggests "a hidden agenda to produce an eight to challenge [them]". Nottingham did that in 1994 and their crew pushed the British squad to half a second in Lucerne and went on to win gold at the Commonwealth Games.

Early retirement looms for poor little Diego



SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

THIS week's Diego Armando story centres on the fact that two clubs are feuding for the right to his talents. He is signed up for one, but regularly turning out for the other. This cannot go on.

Perhaps you are unimpressed by this rather routine bit of footballing turmoil. That is because you have the wrong Diego Armando by the ear. I am talking about Diego Armando Junior, aged eight. Little Diego is the illegitimate son of Big Diego. He lives in Naples, and has signed to play his footie with Rinascita Vomerese; but the Cuma club is nearer, so sometimes he trains with them.

Salvatore D'Ambroso, the manager of Rinascita, said: "Diego Junior has been with me for four years, and followed me to this club. The position is irregular. Cuma have used him in a children's tournament, but, if he gets hurt, the responsibility is ours."

Cristiana Sinagra, his mother, shows sense, at least in some matters. "We are very miserable," she said. "Diego goes to Cuma because it is near his home and his school. It is very sad. A child of eight should play in tranquillity, and because he enjoys it. Perhaps it would be better if he gave it all up. Or in ten years time, what will happen?" Ask your dad, Diego.

Super names

As rugby league continues to self-destruct — sorry, I mean embark on a new and glorious future — the hottest issue around is who can come up with the most awful name. The leap into the future involves an amalgamation of clubs: a name is a precious thing, part of tradition, and people relinquish them with reluctance. So we must salute mighty Calder, the new name for Wakefield, Castleford and Featherstone — names that reek of liniment and chips.

South Yorkshire is the inspiring name for Sheffield and Doncaster, and Manchester for Oldham and Salford. When uniting Hull and Hull Kingston Rovers, a simple Hull would obviously be unacceptable. So they came up with Humberside. Trouble is that Humberside, as an administrative area, will cease to exist in 1996. Highly forward-looking. They are now hoping supporters will shout: "Come on East Riding Unitary. Give me an E!"

In the pink

There is something inescapably attractive about the idea of free money, and that is precisely the athlete's view of the sponsor's role in sport. The sponsor sees things a little differently. He wants something back. Or she does.



Alnwick rugby club, in Northumberland, were looking for a sponsor for a seven-a-side tournament that takes place tomorrow, and they found one, too: Brambles Fitness Centre in Gateshead, which is a gym for women. The good news is that the gym will supply the shirts. The less good news is that the shirts are pink. A particularly unapologetic shade of pink. Tatchell pink, if you like. "All of our instructors wear pink sweatshirts and leotards," Sue Jackson, the manager of the gym, said. "The colour is part of our corporate image. It's not because I wanted to get our own back on the men." Simon Manners, the Alnwick captain and scrum half, said: "When I told the lads they would be wearing pink, they were a bit taken aback, but we won't be worried about smart remarks. It's what's inside a shirt that counts, and it takes real men to wear pink."

Strike it unlucky

Hero of the week is Arsenio Benitez, a striker with Platense, of Argentina. He had a game of wonder and delight against Lanus. He headed the ball into the net in the 32nd minute, but the referee disallowed the goal for offside. So he banged home another in the 66th minute. Hurrah! No, said the ref. Offside again — but Benitez is nothing if not a trier. In the last minute, up he popped again with another header. At last, at last! No, said the ref. Surely not offside again? Nope. Benitez pushed a defender. That made it a hat-trick of disallowed goals. Oh, and Benitez also had a penalty appeal turned down. Oh, and Lanus won 1-0, thanks to an own goal. You get bad days, and you get days like that.

Flat rates

Michael Jordan has a new sponsor. No, he does not have to wear pink. It is a battery manufacturer called Rayovac. Thomas Pyle, an executive with the company, produced the lamest line of the week to back this up: "Michael has renewed a basketball career, and the battery is renewable." Not so lame if you happen to be His Airness, as you must refer to the artist formerly known as Air Jordan these days. He gets a million bucks a year for ten years, plus shares in the company.

Losing score

❑ *Lovers of fantasy sports should beware. You must face up to what your choice will reveal about you. "You only had to look at my fantasy league points to see I was completely out of it." Who made that confession? Answer: Paul Merson.*

FA's lack of vision may prove costly in Welsh dispute



ROB HUGHES
Weekend View

It is hard to know whether to pity or deplore the administrators of football. The Football Association, beset by so many ills, so many challenges to its reputation, may yet rue the day it chose to act as benevolent neighbours to three Welsh clubs.

When Newport AFC, Colwyn Bay and Caernarfon Town won a restraint of trade case against the Football Association of Wales (FAW) on Wednesday, one would have thought that here was justice dispensed in the High Court of the land, justice to free the defiant clubs that had refused to be coerced into the Konica League of Wales, a league they demonstrated to the satisfaction of the judge was below their earning power, their aspiration, and their playing status.

The FAW full council met the following day, instructed its lawyers to consider launching an appeal against the ruling and committed more funds and more acrimony to the protracted and surely unnecessary legal fight. How does this affect England?

The Football Association, so steeped in history that it does not require the name English, now faces an invidious choice. Having two years ago allowed the three clubs to affiliate to Lancaster Gate, permitting them to perform from their Welsh grounds in the pyramid of English semi-professional football, it now finds that either it continues this support, and stays within the law of the High Court, or it commits what could amount to contempt of that court. England's problem is that Fifa, the international rulers of the game, had preempted the High Court verdict by announcing an indefinite ban, from next June, on the three clubs.

The wrath of Fifa may itself be unconstitutional. What would happen if the clubs, should they afford court costs running to thousands of pounds, sue Fifa for restraint of trade? Fifa is acting under Article 57 of its statutes, which states that clubs are not permitted to take a dispute to courts of law "even if the law of a country allows clubs to contest decisions pronounced by sports bodies".

Such a tangled legal web. One would have thought that, before committing the funds accrued from 2,000 clubs in Wales, the FAW would have been able, under recent guidance from Fifa House in Zurich, to break the intransigence of three relatively insignificant clubs. Instead, the FAW has been ordered to pay the £200,000 costs of the three clubs, which, together with its own costs, could almost bankrupt the association.

One would have thought that the Football Association would have seen around the corner and either not got involved or counselled its colleagues in Wales to behave in a more responsible and caring manner.

Nothing doing. On BBC Radio Five Live, Alun Evans, the chief executive of the FAW, insisted that there would have to be a change of heart from the three clubs. He offered no movement. They, backed by legal counsel in London, had gone too deeply into the action to retreat. So, Fifa's dire threats fell on deaf ears.

Mr Justice Blackburne's judgment ruled that it was restraint of trade to prevent the clubs from pursuing their own destiny within the English pyramid, but he dismissed their claim for damages of £450,000 for breach of contract by the FAW. There the legal matter rests. "It is a situation in which there are no winners," Dave Collins, the FAW secretary, said. "It is doing no good for Welsh soccer as a whole."

The FAW is now concerned that the Konica League of Wales could lose its entry into competitions run by Uefa, the European governing body. "We are fearful for our European places," John Deakin, the League of Wales secretary, said. "If the league does lose its European places, it will be a case of never have the interests of so many been sacrificed for those of so few." He does not stipulate whether his anger is with the three Welsh clubs, or the apparently isolated, dogmatic, empire-building FAW.

The directors of Newport AFC, nakedly ambitious to return to full-time professional sport, wonder if Fifa has considered that, by its threat of indefinite suspension, it could countermand its very purpose — for the clubs are the heart of their own communities, and it is their role to foster and educate young footballers within that community.

It was Laurence Sterne, novelist and clergyman, who wrote in the 18th century: "'Tis known by the name of perseverance in a good cause, and of obstinacy in a bad one." How did the rulers at Lancaster Gate allow themselves to become so embroiled in somebody else's obstinacy?

Macken makes a speedy start to final challenge

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR
IN GOTHENBURG

EDDIE MACKEN, Ireland's only representative at the Volvo World Cup final here, took the lead on his French-bred mare, Miss FAN, at the end of the opening speed leg of the show jumping competition last night.

Macken, 45, who started riding Miss FAN, a former French team horse, in January, thought he had "little chance" of success after being drawn fifth out of the 39 starters. However, he produced a thrilling performance on the 11-year-old mare to finish a fraction of a second ahead of Peter Eriksson, of Sweden, on Robin. Two British challengers — Michael Whitaker, on Everest Two Step, and Nick Skelton, on Everest Dollar Girl — are in contention in third and fifth.

For this opening leg, a speed competition in which four seconds were added to a rider's score for a knockdown, Olaf Petersen, the course designer, had built a straightforward 12-fence course.

"There's not too much to worry about here, it's just a bit twisty," John Whitaker had said confidently beforehand. It proved an inaccurate summary. Only six riders were clear and, surprisingly, these did not include either of the favourites, Ludger Beerbaum, of Germany, and his compatriot, Franke Sloothaak, who both made mistakes at the big parallel at the second fence and are lieing in seventh and thirteenth places. Jos Lansink, of Holland, the holder of the World Cup, also picked up four seconds, but is still in fourth place.

Whitaker, the winner in 1991 and 1992, had eight penalty seconds when Welham, the 13-year-old gelding he started riding just before Christmas, hit two upright fences, leaving him trailing in nineteenth place.

With Geoff Billington also disappointing on It's Otto, it was left to Skelton and Michael Whitaker to restore British hopes. Skelton, in confident, attacking mood, produced a superb round on the obliging Dollar Girl to go into third place. Whitaker swiftly dislodged him with a copybook round on Everest Two Step, a horse he thought would be ill-suited to the course.

Both Macken and Michael Whitaker said they were relieved to have got the first leg of this three part competition over. Their long-striding horses are better suited to the bigger courses to come in the second and third legs, which take place tonight and on Monday. Macken, who rates Miss FAN, one of the best horses he has sat on, will be difficult to dislodge.

RESULTS: Leading positions: 1, Miss FAN (E Macken, Ire) 61.86; 2, Robin 2 (P Eriksson, Swe) 61.79; 3, Everest Two Step (M Whitaker, GB) 62.05; 4, Libero (J Lansink, Holland) 63.31; 5, Everest Dollar Girl (N Skelton, GB) 63.32

Strugglers prepare for test of character

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

EASTER, in the FA Carling Premiership, usually represents the last-chance saloon. When two or three victories can provide the basis for a late tilt at the title; when a similar number of defeats can condemn the once mighty to life among the Endsleigh Insurance League also-rans.

Footballers become nervous, unable to display their natural flair. Managers become reclusive, unwilling to share their deepest thoughts. And chairmen become teichy, unhappy at nine months of empty promises. It is a time when rational action and considered opinion are often lost amid a torrent of emotion.

At the top, the Easter period could yet re-ignite a race that has long appeared to be favouring Blackburn Rovers. They lead by eight points from Manchester United, each club



Seaman: feeling pressure

having six matches left, but face an awkward fixture away to Leeds United today and a home game against Manchester City on Monday. City showed their well-being by toppling Liverpool 2-1 at Maine Road yesterday.

If Blackburn's solid, if unspectacular, progress were to falter, and United picked up maximum points against Leicester City and Chelsea, a distinct possibility, then Alex Ferguson, the United manager, might find himself in the bizarre position of having something to enthuse about. Even he must have grown tired of whinging at anything and everything, or having to constantly defend his errant players.

Below the leading pair, Uefa Cup places are at stake, with Nottingham Forest, Newcastle United, Leeds and Tottenham Hotspur vying for, probably, three tickets. Liverpool have already qualified via their Coca-Cola Cup success. There are also Intertoto Cup places available for those desperate enough to become involved in the latest brainchild of Uefa, the sport's European governing body, or foolish enough to want to play throughout the summer.

It is in the depths of the division, however, where the true nature of the Premiership beast can be found. Leicester have gone, and Ipswich Town will be soon, but the struggle to avoid the other two relegation slots has reached almost manic proportions. Ten clubs, from Manchester City down to Crystal Palace, are separated by five points.

Survival is not so much about loss of face as loss of money. Lots and lots of it. Those who disappear into the Endsleigh void will suddenly discover that their bank manager is not half as friendly as he used to be.

Of all the stragglers, Arsenal strike the strangest chord. Tipped by many as the team most likely to dethrone Manchester United, they have stumbled from problem to dilemma to crisis in a campaign of chilling ineptitude — Cup Winners' Cup involvement excluded. David Seaman, their goalkeeper, got it just about right when he said yesterday: "We are down at the bottom with the rubbish and we have got to get together and get out of it. Every game is a pressure game now, and if we are not up to the challenge, we will go down."

To perm any two from ten is not easy. For Norwich City, though, the game is perhaps up. Robert Chase, the chairman, can gloat over his beautifully refurbished Carrow Road ground, a state-of-the-art training complex and a £6.65 million transfer profit this season, but what good is that in the first division?

Norwich have only four matches left, less than all their bedfellows, against Tottenham, Liverpool, Leeds and Aston Villa. When Chase partakes in the last-chance saloon, he may be drowning his sorrows.



Nicky Summerbee sends the ball out of reach of Mark Wright and David James, of Liverpool, to score the first of Manchester City's goals in their important 2-1 victory in an FA Carling Premiership match at Maine Road. Report, page 40. Photograph: Ross Kinnaird

Seventh title beckons inactive Rangers

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

RANGERS could clinch their seventh successive Scottish premier division championship today without kicking a ball. If Celtic fail to collect three points against Aberdeen at Pittodrie, Rangers will have retained their championship even before their live televised game against Hibernian at Ibrox kicks off tomorrow.

The success of Rangers has prompted them to launch an appeal to raise up to £10 million for transfer dealings. For £399, supporters can purchase the right to buy their season ticket at Ibrox for the next 25 years, together with other concessions.

The club intends to spend £4 million this summer on completing works at the ground, creating a 51,000 all-seater arena. The changes will enable them to offer several thousand more supporters the chance to buy season tickets, and the finances will help put the club "at the forefront of Europe", David Murray, the chairman, said.

Aberdeen's future in the top flight, meanwhile, hangs on two games in four days. With his side four points adrift of Dundee United at the bottom, Jim Aitken, the Aberdeen caretaker manager, must go for points against both Celtic and at Motherwell on Tuesday.

Aitken, a former team-mate of Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, at Parkhead, said: "I'm looking for us to maintain the football we've shown in the past three games and hopefully get a break as well. It's hard to say how many of the 15 points available we might need — probably a fair percentage. The fans are right behind us and there will be a great atmosphere at Pittodrie for Celtic's visit. They are on a high after reaching the Cup Final, but we won't be thinking about them."

Burns, who expects to have Peter Grant and Pierre van Hooydonk missing, said: "It must be absolute torture for Roy right now. He came in at the toughest possible time, but, naturally, my only concern is getting Celtic back on the rails."

Burns went through the relegation battle last season when he was in charge of Kilmarnock, who survived on the final day of the season on goal difference. "There were five or six clubs involved last season and it went right to the wire," he said. "It could go the same way again."

Celtic reached the Scottish Cup Final by beating Hibernian, but Burns wants to secure a place in Europe before their encounter with Airdrieonians on May 27. "We'd like to have European football for next season assured before the Cup Final," he said. "That means finishing second in the league — which would be a sign of progress."

Elsewhere, the race for Uefa Cup places and survival dominates the three other games. Motherwell go to Falkirk with their sights also set on a return to the European stage and Alex McLeish, their manager, is likely to bring back Dougie Arnott.

At Tynecastle, Heart of Midlothian hope to halt a run of four successive defeats which have seen them put out of the cup and plunge towards the relegation zone. Partick Thistle, their visitors, are only three points behind and Tommy McLean, the manager of Hearts, is facing a daunting injury list. He has eight players with injuries.

"We must stop the rot and we need a victory," McLean said. "We've been dragged down into the relegation area and we must get ourselves out of it."

Dundee United will be looking for their first win under Billy Kirkwood at home to Kilmarnock. In the first division, Raith Rovers, the leaders, entertain Airdrieonians. In the third division, Forfar Athletic will clinch promotion if they win at Ross County.

Sievinen upstaged by Belgian

JANI SIEVINEN feared defeat and stayed dry at the Edinburgh swimming international last night, but the disappointment of those who had gone to see the world champion was short-lived as a former brewery worker from Bruges stepped in to fill the void (Craig Lord writes).

Fred Deburghgraeve left commentators tongue-tied as he defeated Norbert Rozsa, the world champion at 100 metres breaststroke, in the second-fastest time of the year, 1min 01.85sec. Rozsa, the Hungarian, looked on in amazement after trailing in after the Belgian, who had finished third to him at the world championships last year.

On any other occasion, 1min 02.40sec would have been good enough to win any international long-course event so early in the season, but Rozsa had not counted on Deburghgraeve, 21, and the Belgian Olympic programme that allows swimmers to give up their jobs and train for up to eight hours a day.

Paul Palmer, from Lincoln, was delighted to finish second to Antti Kasvio, the Finnish world champion, in the 400 metres freestyle, while Martin Harris cruised to victory in the 100 metres backstroke. With Sievinen's lane occupied by a fellow Finn of less calibre, Attila Czene, of Hungary, won the 200 metres individual medley in 2min 02.98sec, the fastest time in the world this year, and confirmed that Sievinen was right to fear defeat.

Results, page 36

Nevin advances title chase

Tranmere Rovers 1
Bolton Wanderers 0

BY PETER BALL

TRANMERE Rovers gained a significant victory over Bolton Wanderers, their great rivals, on a warm afternoon on the Wirral. Pat Nevin's goal takes them up into second place, one point behind Middlesbrough, the leaders of the Endsleigh Insurance League first division.

Three of their remaining five games are at home, with Middlesbrough visiting on the last day of the season, preceded that week by Wolverhampton Wanderers. If Tranmere win all five, they will go up as champions.

"Fate is very much in our own hands, and we are capable of taking the pot," John King, the Tranmere manager, said. They have won 17 of 20 home games, but they made hard work of it yesterday. Only Nevin's fifth goal of the season, in front of the watching Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, separated the sides as Tranmere hung on.

"It was a fantastic result for us," Nevin said. "The boss has been having a go at me to get more goals and so has my dad. You've got to give credit to Bolton. They have had a lot of tough games recently, but they worked very hard and they deserve something at the end of the season, too."

The result, however, leaves Bolton facing the prospect that they could end the season with nothing; poor reward for the side many believe to be the best outside the top flight. If they return to Wembley in the play-offs, their experience against Liverpool in the Coca-Cola Cup Final will help them, but, yesterday, they looked as if the demands of the season had taken their toll.

Before the interval they looked a tired side, even the usually immaculate Stubbs making unforced errors. He was robbed by Aldridge after 35 minutes of hectic but mainly formless action. Aldridge found Morrissey, who sent Thomas free for a cross. Irons's header came back off the woodwork to leave Nevin free in front of goal.

Another error by Stubbs saw Malkin racing through, but his hasty lob flew wide and high as Branagan and Bolton survived until the interval.

Thereafter, they raised their game to keep Tranmere under sustained pressure. McAteer dominated midfield along with Sneekes, but Paatelainen failed to hit the target and McGinlay was ineffective. The best effort came from McAteer, whose low drive surprised Nixon, but Paatelainen slipped as he went for the rebound and the chance was missed. That was the story of Bolton's afternoon.

TRANMERE ROVERS (4-4-2): E Nixon — A Thomas, J McGreal, S Garnett, G Stevens — J Morrissey (sub: G Jones, 87min); L O'Brien, K Irons (sub: G Brannan, 70), P Nevin — J Aldridge, C Malkin.
BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K Branagan — G Bergsson, M Seagraves, A Stubbs, J Phillips — D Lee, J McAteer, R Sneekes, A Thompson — M Paatelainen (sub: M Patterson, 87), J McGinlay.
Referee: T Holbrook.

RESULTS

FA Carling Premiership

C PALACE Armstrong 41 18,149	(1)	1	TOTTENHAM Klinsmann 87	(0) 1
MAN CITY Summerbee 18 Gaudino 73	(1)	2	LIVERPOOL McManaman 21 27,055	(1) 1

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

TRANMERE Nevin 34	(1)	1	BOLTON 14,959	(0) 0
WATFORD Pitcher 41	(1)	1	MILLWALL 6,907	(0) 0

TABLES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbro	41	22	9	10	61	35	75
Tranmere	41	22	8	11	64	44	74
Bolton	41	20	12	9	62	38	72
Wolves	40	20	9	11	68	52	69
Reading	41	19	9	13	48	39	66
Barnsley	40	18	10	12	57	45	64
Sheff Utd	41	16	14	11	64	46	62
Derby	41	17	11	13	58	44	62
Watford	41	16	13	12	48	42	61

UNIBOND NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Auckland 0 Spennymoor 0.
DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Hitchin 1 Slough 0.
GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford 1 Barnstaple 1; Bristol Manor Farm 0 Mangotsfield 1; Chippenham 0 Calne 1; Crediton 2 Torrington 2; Paulton 2 Frome 2; Saltash 1 Liskeard 3.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton 0 Queens Park Rangers 4.
SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Second division: Crystal Palace 1 Bristol City 0.

Watford gap looms large

Watford 1
Millwall 0

BY ALYSON RUDD

THE gap between Watford and a first division play-off place will take some bridging between now and the end of the season. Too many clubs located further up the motorways will have to slip up badly in the run-in for the Hertfordshire team to get even a sniff of Wembley.

All Watford can do is win their remaining fixtures, then hope. That, in itself, is a difficult enough task, although they won easily at Vicarage Road yesterday.

Millwall were the proverbial southern softies. None of their attempts on goal had any power or conviction. Even when three visiting forwards found themselves, on the break, outnumbering the opposition, they managed to squander the opportunity, with Dixon dispossessed easily by Hessenthaler.

Millwall can, and often do, play better than this. Perhaps the knowledge that a play-off place is, for them, not even worth a day-dream killed their spirit. It cannot have helped their mood that Pitcher, formerly on their books, scored the winning goal.

Pitcher, 19, gave his all on his full debut for Watford, and gave his club the lead after 41 minutes. Hessenthaler had collected his goalkeeper's clearance and run the full length of the pitch. Instead of shooting himself, as the crowd thought he should, he pulled the ball back for Pitcher. The groans turned to grateful roars as the perfectly weighted pass allowed the debutant to beat Keller with ease.

The victory could have been more emphatic. Phillips had a first-half effort disallowed for offside and Beadle almost fooled Keller with a quick shot on the turn in the 68th minute. After a series of astute long-range passes from the left flank, Porter deserved more than for his dipping shot from outside the area to miss the target narrowly.

Glenn Roeder, the Watford manager, said it was an "absolute coincidence" that Pitcher's debut, after a season in the reserves, came against his old club, but there is no doubt that players lift their game against their former team and that, yesterday, Pitcher's energy made all the difference.

If it is sinking in that Watford could reach the play-offs, the players did not let on. They came a close second to Millwall for gentility. Only when a clearance hit Beard on his heavily bandaged arm was there any need to wince.

"I'd send you all to sleep if I talked you through it," Mick McCarthy, the Millwall manager, said afterwards.

WATFORD (5-3-2): K Miller — G Lavin, R Page, D Holdsworth, K Millen, G Porter — G Pitcher (sub: R Johnson, 83min), A Hessenthaler, D Payne — P Beadle (sub: M Quinn, 78), K Phillips.
MILLWALL (4-4-2): K Keller — M Beard, D Webber (sub: L McRobert, 75), K Stevens, B Thatcher — A Roberts, A May, A Rae, J Van Blerk — K Dixon, D Oldfield (sub: S Taylor, 75min).
Referee: P Foakes.

RUGBY UNION 33

LEICESTER LOOKING TO PUT BATH IN THEIR PLACE

SPORT

SNOOKER 37

HENDRY LEAVES 10 NEWCOMER TRAILING IN HIS WAKE

SATURDAY APRIL 15 1995

Klinsmann equaliser raises relegation fears at Selhurst Park as fellow strugglers win

Late strike spoils Palace work

Crystal Palace 1
Tottenham Hotspur 1

BY OLIVER HOLT

THE air of tragic anti-heroes clung to the Crystal Palace players at Selhurst Park yesterday as they tottered from one bitter disappointment to another. Sullied by indiscipline, flawed by mediocrity, bowed by misfortune, they have become poignant symbols of a troubled season.

After the trauma of their last week, it seemed almost fitting that they should be deprived of what would have been a crucial victory in their struggle against relegation from the FA Carling Premiership in the dying minutes of the match. The fact that it was a glorious Klinsmann free kick that denied them did not make it any easier to take.

Klinsmann said after the match that his destination at the end of the season was still uncertain. Bayern Munich are believed to have made several offers for him.

"We will have to wait and discuss it at the end of the season," Klinsmann said. "Everybody has made me very welcome here and I like living in London, but we will wait and see what happens."

Alan Smith, the Palace manager, was in the tunnel when the German striker stepped up, unable to watch. After a week in which his side had lost key players and twice saw a place in the FA Cup Final snatched away from them by Manchester United, and when one of their supporters had been killed in a pub brawl, Smith said he had had a premonition that Klinsmann was going to score. He has a nose for these things now.

Robbed of the win they just about deserved through their determination to overcome Tottenham's superior play with grit and perseverance, Palace remain anchored in the relegation zone with games running out and points getting more elusive by the week. "It seems to me as though a whole year has gone into this week," Smith said.

Battered and bruised by everything that has been flung at them in this torrid season, Palace are already surprised recipients of this year's sympathy vote. It might have something to do with the transparent honesty and worth of Smith, too, but the neutrals were willing them a lucky break yesterday.

Rob Hughes 39
Tranmere victory 39



Wilmot, the Crystal Palace goalkeeper, fails to save Klinsmann's free kick at Selhurst Park yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

West Ham United's win over Wimbledon on Thursday night was not ideal and Manchester City's win over Liverpool yesterday deepened the gloom. But, early in the game, it seemed that the home side might have been given the opportunities to make their own luck and fight their way out of trouble.

Dowie's snatched volley from Salako's cross raised their hopes within the first quarter of an hour and Armstrong should have done better with a tame header. Armstrong was again at the centre of the Palace threat midway through the half when he crossed for Pitcher, but Rosenthal hacked the ball off the line.

Tottenham, too, were bidding to overcome their own FA Cup semi-final defeat at the hands of Everton last Sunday and, as the half wore on, they showed the sort of form that had deserted them at Elland Road. Anderton and Barmby were the souls of creativity and Klinsmann was always a threat.

In the 29th minute, the German wrestled Young off the ball and lashed a fierce left-foot shot against Wilmot's legs. Just when it seemed that it would be only a matter of time before the visitors' scored, Palace took the lead.

Armstrong collected a weak defensive header 30 yards out and, as Walker covered the left-hand side of his goal, Armstrong drilled the ball through Calderwood's legs and past the goalkeeper's despairing dive.

Palace should have extended their lead in the second half, particularly when Salako was surprised to see Patterson's bouncing cross reach him. It bounced off his chest with the goal at his mercy. Five minutes after that Cox, a substitute for Salako, struck a right-foot shot against the outside of the post.

Typically, there was a touch of misfortune about the Tottenham equaliser. Klinsmann could have been penalised for high kicking, but the ball was allowed to run on and Southgate was punished for kicking Sheringham in the chest. Klinsmann curled the free kick over the wall and in off the underside of the crossbar.

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-4-2): R Wilmot — D Patterson, D Gordon, E Young, R Shaw — G Southgate, J Salako (sub: I Cox 73min), D Pitcher (sub: R Newman 80), R Houghton — I Dowie, C Armstrong.
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — D Austin, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, J Edinburgh — G Popescu, N Barmby, D Anderton, R Rosenthal — T Sheringham, J Klinsmann.
Referee: P Don.

Leading article, page 17

Germans join forces to help City's climb to safer ground

Manchester City 2
Liverpool 1

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

IN A tense finish, Manchester City eventually got the better of a Liverpool team that was palpably exhausted. Winners against Arsenal at Highbury on Wednesday, Liverpool could not deny City a win yesterday that carried them seven places up the FA Carling Premiership towards mid-table, riches indeed after their fallow spring. This was only their third victory in 20 league games, and it could not have been more timely.

City take on Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park on Monday with more hope than appeared likely at three o'clock yesterday. At the end, their players were out of puff, notably Rösler and Gaudino, who had to be scraped off the turf. The Germans had combined for the winning goal in the 74th minute, Gaudino heading in from 12 yards after Rösler had stayed onside to deliver a cross from the right.

Gaudino had played a significant part in the first goal, supplying a pass from the outside right position that Summerbee, running on to meet it, stroked calmly past James. It was his first league goal for the club in his 36th appearance, but then he, like his father before him, is not principally a goalscorer.

Given their superiority in the second half, when Rösler should have scored with a header and Foster almost did do with a header that James pushed around the post, City were worth their win. They are not safe yet, but they will sleep more soundly at nights. They are not a good team but, on this performance, they are a sight better than some of the other strugglers.

Liverpool had the chances before half-time to win. Five years ago, even two, Rush would surely have made more of two openings, and Fowler screwed the ball narrowly wide of the post after beating Curle to it. All they had to show was a goal for McManaman, who chipped over and beyond Coton, who stood rooted to the spot.

McManaman was clearly the best player on view until he was withdrawn a minute before City's second goal. It was, however, peculiar that Liverpool chose to play him on the left side, where Kennedy, the young Irishman, often replicated his movements, reducing the risk to City's more exposed left side, where Walsh was a lonely soul.

It was in that last spirited siege of the Liverpool goal that Flitcroft, an anonymous figure for much of the game, emerged as a man of substance. His ferocious right-footed volley stung James, who also mishandled a shot from Beagrie, the City substitute.

Head and shoulders above the others in light blue was Rösler, who has attained a status among the City supporters granted to few. But for his goals this season, and the sheer guts he brings to the team's cause, their position would be helpless. He is not a class horse, no Klinsmann, but he is what this team needs right now.

Scorer of goals, he can also make them, and he did here. Picking up the ball ten yards in the Liverpool half, by the touchline, he sprinted to the line and gave Gaudino the sort of ball players see in their dreams when the goal in in their sights. James stood no chance, and that was that.

MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2): A Coton — R Edghill, J Foster, K Curle, T Phelan (sub: A Kernaghan, 60min) — N Summerbee, M Gaudino, G Flitcroft, P Walsh (sub: P Beagrie, 69) — N Quinn, U Rösler.
LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D James — M Thomas, N Ruddock, J Scales, P Babb — J Redknapp, S McManaman (sub: D Matteo, 73), sub: N Clough, 76), J Barnes, M Kennedy — I Rush, R Fowler.
Referee: J Worrall.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	36	25	7	4	73	30	82
Man Utd	35	22	8	5	66	24	74
Notm Forest	38	19	10	9	65	40	67
Newcastle	36	19	10	7	80	37	67
Liverpool	36	18	10	8	59	30	64
Leeds	36	16	11	9	49	33	59
Tottenham	38	15	11	10	58	48	56
QPR	38	15	8	13	55	52	53
Wimbledon	37	15	7	15	46	51	52
Sheff Wed	37	12	10	15	45	53	46
Man City	37	11	11	15	47	57	44
Aston Villa	36	10	13	13	47	48	43
Arsenal	37	11	10	16	42	45	43
Coventry	36	10	13	13	37	54	43
Southampton	35	9	15	11	51	57	42
Chelsea	38	10	12	14	42	50	42
Norwich	38	10	12	16	34	48	42
West Ham	36	11	8	17	37	45	41
Everton	35	9	12	14	38	46	39
C Palace	35	9	12	14	29	35	39
Leicester	37	6	9	23	40	71	24
Ipswich	36	6	5	25	31	81	23

Does not include Everton v Newcastle

Photograph, page 39

Keane expresses regret for foul

BY PETER BALL AND RUSSELL KEMPSON

ROY KEANE, the Manchester United midfield player, yesterday apologised for the "two seconds of madness" that led to his sending-off for stamping on Gareth Southgate, the Crystal Palace captain, in United's 2-0 victory in their FA Cup semi-final replay at Villa Park on Wednesday.

"I deeply regret what happened," Keane said. "As soon as I had done it, I knew I had let down the club, myself and my family. I don't know what went through my mind. It was a late tackle [by Southgate] and I just reacted. I knew I was off the moment I had done it but all the other players diving in probably didn't help."

Keane has been charged with bringing the game into disrepute, as has Darren Patterson, the Palace defender, who became involved in the same incident and was also dismissed. However, Martin Edwards, the United chairman, has indicated that if the FA attempts to extend Keane's suspension beyond the statutory three matches, the club will consider taking the matter to court.

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, has appealed for players to remain calm as the FA Carling Premiership enters its most critical phase.

"Especially now, when every misdemeanour is being used as a target for condemnation and is blown out of proportion, players have to try to count to ten. They are being asked to be role models and, whatever the provocation, they have to try to keep their cool ... Premiership players are under more pressure than virtually any politician, film star or pop singer," he said.

Leading article, page 17

Edwards gives masterful display to seal Stones Bitter championship

Wigan remain in charge of old order

Wigan 34
St Helens 18

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

TEN days that shook rugby league ended with a couple of traditions intact. Wigan, for a sixth successive year, are champions of the last conventional Stones Bitter championship and St Helens were yesterday left again to applaud the achievement of their peerless rivals.

Can a bigger, brighter summer Super League cut Wigan down to size? On the evidence of a 21st title in ten years, possibly not for a while yet. Whereas in past seasons it was nip and tuck in the league to the end, they have romped home this time with the bruises of a mere two defeats, away at Leeds and Halifax.

Even the combined strength of clubs is nowhere near anything like enough to match Wigan, and yesterday was more reserve than vintage Wigan. Dennis Betts believes the side he is leaving after nine years for Auckland Warriors next month is at or near its peak. "It won't happen overnight," he said. "Sides are not going to be challenging Wigan for the next couple of years at least."

So engrained is the winning habit, even the celebrations have become incidental. First championship medals obviously meant a great deal to Paul, scorer of two tries, Radlinski and O'Connor. Shaun Edwards sank to his knees after winning his seventh but more probably because of the suspected cartilage injury that has prompted his annual pre-Wembley scare.

For the 80 minutes that St Helens bowed the collective knee to the Great Britain captain and scrum half, it was hard to distinguish the pain Edwards later admitted he was in. Four of Wigan's six tries owed everything to his daring, measured pass and timing in a masterly display.

Take away the ring master and Wigan might have struggled. As it was, St Helens kept pace until Edwards nonchalantly breezed into space and the confidence of Paul swept him in from 50 yards past Prescott.

All five meetings this season have lived up to their billing, but, with the exception of the draw by St Helens in the Challenge Cup, have produced the same outcome. It is now eight years since Wigan's rivals have won in the league at Central Park. "There is no place like home and beating Saints for winning a championship," Edwards said.

It was toe-to-toe for 38 minutes, with much of the punishment St Helens took self-inflicted. Knock-ons by Loughlin and Sullivan were the precursors to Edwards sending Betts strolling in on his inside for a simple but brilliantly executed score, and Tuigamala rumbling in at the right corner.

There was an unacceptable degree of early sloppiness in the Wigan defence that Goulding noticed with a couple of sidefooted slide-rule kicks for first Cooper, then Prescott to pounce upon, the second after a fumble by Connolly.

Paul's first try, and another one for Offiah, again created out of nothing by Edwards with an outrageous dummy and lobbed pass, broke the St Helens resistance.

The next try belonged to the book of all-time bizarre scores. From a dropout under the posts, Farrell's kick bounced on halfway between Nickle and Prescott, who watched aghast as Paul hared up, collected and scored.

Graeme West enjoyed that, as he has so much in an unbelievable first year as coach. "It has been a great response from the players," he said. "Before Wembley, in two weeks, we will give the fringe players a chance: then, there's the premiership. We will take what's going and try to win it."

SCORERS: Wigan: Tries: Paul (2), Betts, Tuigamala, Offiah, Hall. Goals: Bolton (5). St Helens: Tries: Cooper (2), Prescott. Goals: Goulding (3).
WIGAN: H Paul; K Radlinski, V Tuigamala (sub: S-J Mather, 57min), G Connolly, M Offiah, F Bolton, S Edwards; T O'Connor (sub: P Atcheson, 31), M Hall, N Cowie, D Betts, M Cassidy, A Farrell.
ST HELENS: S Prescott; A Hunte, A Northey, P Loughlin, A Sullivan (sub: M Ellis, 40); T Martyn, R Goulding; A Fogerty (sub: V Meikaulia, 28), K Cunningham, A Perelini, B Dwyer, S Nickle, S Cooper
Referee: J Holdsworth.



Elation for Wigan, league champions yet again. Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

Warrington merger scrapped in new talks

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WIDNES and Warrington are to retain their individual identities — scrapping the idea of a Cheshire side — and there will be only one French team, according to the second draft statement of rugby league's Super League, due to start next March.

The first draft lasted just six days, but with two of the clubs earmarked for merger now allowed to compete in their own right, pressure could mount for abandonment of other amalgamations.

Two French teams was always ambitious. Tolouse has been dropped, leaving just Paris, after discussions yesterday between Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby Football League chief executive, and French officials.

Jim Mills, the Widnes chairman, said yesterday: "We thought we had a 50-50 chance. It's marvellous news."

Allowing both Widnes and Warrington entry has healed potentially the greatest rift in a, so far, divisive merger process. Confirmation of the decision brought delight to both sets of supporters and Naughton Park yesterday — even though Warrington beat Widnes 37-16.

Oldham, planned to merge with Salford, ironically beat them yesterday 28-16. Following the new talks, they, too, however may feel they deserve the same treatment.

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Drivers face ban from beauty spots

Page 2



Confessions of a bishop who thanks God for his driver

Page 10



SATURDAY APRIL 15 1995

A revival meeting with a difference is hoping to preserve a British racing legend. **Kevin Eason** reports

Look out! The Bentley boys are back

PETER TRIEVNOR



The legend lives on: cars from a bygone age roar around the banked racetrack at Millbrook in Bedfordshire, reaching speeds of more than 130mph without the comforting cushion of seatbelts or anti-lock brakes

Thrill-seekers will take to the roads today in search of the ultimate moment when their furiously-beating hearts seem to jump into their throats.

Most will get their kicks in the high-tech splendour of theme parks, safe in the knowledge that they are insulated from the chances of the thrill spilling over into anything more dramatic.

But the modern "Bentley boys" do it for real. Try hurtling around the top of a 21-degree angle banked racetrack at more than 130mph, open to the elements, in a car made more than 60 years ago. There are no anti-lock brakes to help if anything goes wrong, no safety cages . . . not even a seatbelt for the intrepid enthusiasts who keep alive memories of legends past.

They live in the 1990s but their hearts go back to the age of Brooklands, when the banked track at Weybridge in Surrey was the centre of the automotive world, with drivers lining up to duel with each other and break records in cars with majestically evocative names such as Bugatti, ERA, Lagonda, Riley, Frazer-Nash, Alfa Romeo — and, of course, Bentley. In an age when the pits at a modern grand prix resemble operating theatres and the drivers are faceless multinational businessmen, there is a chance to live for a day with the sound and smell of racing cars that had characters as identifiable as those of their drivers.

Almost 50 cars will line up at Millbrook, in Bedfordshire, on May 29 for a Brooklands Action Day, sponsored by NGK, the spark plug manufacturer, to recreate the famous atmosphere of those pre-war race days. Although a test centre used by many of the world's big manufacturers to put new hatchbacks and saloons through their paces, Millbrook has a banked track which is the nearest modern-day equivalent of the old Brooklands circuit.

Two miles in circumference and with five lanes, Millbrook is used regularly by cars capable of topping 180mph. For those with the confidence to find out, Millbrook's outer lane has a neutral steer speed of 100mph: in other words, take your hands off the steering wheel and the car should steer itself around the bowl as the "speedo" hits the ton.



Stanley Mann: "The cars are so remarkable"

Stanley Mann and Vaughan Davis say it is true, and they should know for, with Prince Michael of Kent and Phil Greenwood as co-drivers, they recently took one of the most famous of all Bentleys back to Millbrook for another glorious bout of record-breaking which would have had the legendary characters of Brooklands full of admiration.

In 1992, they broke the 1,000 mile record, lapping at an average 104.49mph, including the refuelling and driver-changing stops, which meant the car was regularly hurtling around the outer lane at more than 130mph. And this was in a car open to the elements — no carbon-fibre safety cockpits or modern jiggery-pokery here. The drivers sat up against the fierce wind that hammered into their goggle-clad faces as the car gently tilted up onto the banking and that marvellous 6.5-litre engine roared deafeningly.

The record would be impressive for a modern sports car, but for the Bentley-Jackson Special — popularly known as Mother Gun — it was just another day at the track. Mother Gun won the final British Automobile Racing Club 130mph badge awarded at Brooklands in 1939, driven by George Harvey Noble. That August meeting, one of the most exciting, was also the last for the circuit. May's event will raise money for the Brooklands Trust, which preserves the remains of the track and its museum.

Brooklands was the first purpose-built racetrack in the world, constructed in 1907 to encourage British designers to make cars better than anyone else at a time when nationalism was rampant and the race to technological superiority

Continued on page 2, col 3

The 1,000 mile dash to a record

Prince Michael of Kent warms to the magic of Bentley



Speed king: Prince Michael drives the "Mother Gun"

THE legendary successes of the early Bentleys have, to a great extent, been carried forward to the present day road cars, and I say that as the owner of a Turbo R.

However, over the years various people have been magnanimous enough to let me drive their vintage Bentleys. I took one around the Isle of Man motorcycle grand prix circuit once after the event had finished and while the roads were still closed. Thick fog at the top of the hill coming down into Douglas made sure that was a memorable drive.

At Millbrook in May, I hope to drive again the car that gave me my most exciting Bentley experience: the 1000-mile record we broke in 1992. The record had stood since 1924 when it had been set in a Lanchester and seemed too inviting to resist.

I was approached by Vaughan Davis whose car, the Bentley-Jackson Special, was something of a legend, and in which he intended to tackle the record. The car was built in 1932, with the chassis number ST 3001, from which it derived its sobriquet "Mother Gun". It started life with a 4.5-litre engine, but three years later that was replaced with one of 6.5 litres. It achieved some success, but in 1936-37 the car was rebuilt by R R Jackson using a new aluminium single-seat body. In 1938 at Brooklands, its fastest lap was over 134mph.

Davis had spent more than 25 years restoring the car, and its final preparation for the record attempt at Millbrook was carried out by Stanley Mann in his Radlett workshops.

These two robust Bentley racing drivers, together with a third, Philip Greenwood, had asked me if I would join their team as a sort of guest guest driver, which I was delighted to do.

One of the things I learned about taking a record is that rather than going as fast as possible from the outset and hoping that nothing will go wrong (but having plenty of time to put it right), the idea is to go as gently as possible, just a few mph beyond the average speed for the existing record, so that the engine

Continued on page 2, col 1

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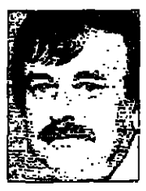
CLASSIC

MICHELIN

Beware the Greater Crested Yellow Rocking Bird — it's migrating to the coast for the Easter holidays

Why I'm giving 'caras' the bird in Bognor

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

The Easter weekend offers the first opportunity of the summer for us mere mortals of the open road to spot the Greater Crested Yellow Rocking Bird, an exotic creature which, most weekends, migrates to the coast in huge numbers. Many return inland on Sundays, while others remain on the coast for the whole summer, their great squat bodies rendering said coastline areas of outstanding unnatural ugliness.

The Greater Crested Yellow Rocking Bird is for some obscure reason known as the 'cara' or the 'van'. "We're off to Bognor in the cara" they will say, at which point the rest of us frantically search a map for *somewhere that isn't Bognor.*

Unfortunately, other caras are off to everywhere but Bognor. They are especially fond of remote beauty spots, which involves normal people in a lot of reversing down single track lanes to facilitate the progress of the cara.

Not that the cara is itself entirely to blame, for the creature is helpless without its keeper. This is a man in a car wearing a worried frown, as well he might. He is worried about the umbilical cord, known as a towing hook, by which he is attached to his cara. *Will this last another summer?*

He is also worried about the sign he has just passed on the M4, which *says: Danger — side winds. But he is* not as worried by this sign as I am, because I am travelling behind him. Ooops, there he goes. The cara, being an independent-minded creature, has decided to do a wind-assisted lane change. The blessed thing wishes to be in front of its master, much like a headstrong dog.

Whereas a second ago the man with the frown was looking in his extended wing mirrors (designed to knock children off their bicycles) at the front of the cara, he suddenly spots the side of the damned thing and *is obliged to do a straightening* manoeuvre fit to tax Damon Hill. He manages it, though he will later discover that the lid of the crockery cupboard is not up to sudden turns and has flown open, dumping crockery *all over the floor.*

Thank heaven it's all plastic, except for the china teapot with a picnic scene painted on the side. Still, that can always be replaced at the caravan site shop when he goes in to microwave his sausage rolls. After *which he will spend the weekend* watching the 12-volt telly, getting fractious with his wife, kids and dog and thinking there must be a more civilised place to live in than this.

There is: it's called a house and come Easter Monday he will be *heading up the motorway towards it.* A nice house it is, too, only spoiled by the fact that the view from the windows is blocked by the cara parked outside.



My call for an experimental 90mph motorway limit has brought some interesting responses, not excluding the lady who thinks me an "uncertified lunatic". How does she know I am uncertified? I can tell her that typing (not to mention driving) in a straitjacket is no easy matter.

John P Tolley, of Altrincham in Cheshire, sends some research showing *that if all vehicles on a* motorway move at 55mph, more will pass a given point per hour than if there is a spread of speeds from 30 to 80mph. In other words, he thinks I am wrong. Sounds implausible, but you never know.

Mr Tolley wants a minimum speed limit but, as he says, that would have to be imposed in conjunction with the provision of *more crawler lanes on uphill sections.* I'll go for that: they could use all that tarmac set aside for the ridiculous M25 scheme.

So here is something for Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, to get his teeth into: he loves anything involving more lanes. Let's have more crawler lanes and a minimum speed, say 60mph.

Give us that and I'll settle for 80 as the maximum. I do hope coach drivers will be obliged to observe it *though: the maximum, I mean.*

Tony Dawe reports on some controversial moves to end congestion in villages and around popular beauty spots

Traffic ban plan to drive cars off country roads

Proposals to keep traffic out of villages and away from beauty spots are being drawn up by local authorities in a bid to ease the sort of congestion that will clog many scenic *areas this weekend.*

They include banning coaches and lorries from most roads in the Lake District and erecting barriers on roads into some Surrey villages to stop them being used as "rat-runs" and to restrict them to local people.

The schemes result from a joint initiative between the *Countryside Commission and* Cumbria and Surrey county councils. At the simplest level, they involve signposting cycle routes and providing more facilities for horse-riders and walkers. The most ambitious, however, have created a storm of protest, from businesses which might be affected by road closures and from motorists.

Cumbria started with a couple of non-controversial schemes close to Lake Windermere. A lane at Under Loughrigg, often used as an unofficial Ambleside bypass, was limited to access only, and the B road through Crook, between Kendal and Bowness, *was given speed restrictions* and narrowed to force coaches and lorries to use A roads to the north, except for access.

This week, though, the council launched its proposals for a "road hierarchy", which is aimed at limiting specific vehicles to specific roads and is probably the most radical traffic management scheme *ever introduced at county* level.

"The scheme is essential if the Lake District national park is to remain a special place," said David Cole, Cumbria's director of economy and environment. "It will help protect the environment and the view and make life better for walkers and cyclists.

"We must try to reconcile, however, the views of Lake District enthusiasts with those who say: 'Don't take away a single car which might pass my bed-and-breakfast'."

The road hierarchy would split Cumbria's highways into four groups:

- Trunk roads, principally to *carry heavy through traffic,* but available to all vehicles.
- Strategic roads, linking the main population and leisure areas to the M6 and the trunk roads, and on which through traffic would be discouraged.
- Local distributor roads, which would carry a wide range of restrictions.
- Local access roads, which *would include most lanes in* the county and would provide access to property only.

The distributor roads will cause the most controversy because speeds will be limited to 40mph, dropping to 30mph and even 20mph through towns and villages, and coaches and lorries will be banned on many. For example, coaches *with more than 25 seats* would be allowed to travel only one-way on the A592 Kirkstone Pass between Windermere and Ullswater, and would be banned from the A593 between Torver and *Broughton and sections of the* B5285 from Coniston to Windermere.

Coaches, caravans and large goods vehicles would also be banned from the A5074 Lyth Valley road and the B5320 Pooley Bridge and B5289 Buttermere roads.

The council will spend the summer discussing the plans *with local communities, coach* operators, the police and emergency services, before making firm proposals later in the year.

The Cumbria scheme is so new that the inevitable opposition has yet to gather steam but the most controversial of Surrey's rural traffic initiatives has been filling the pages *of the Dorking Advertiser.*

The proposal would bar through traffic from the village of Leigh and reduce *traffic through Betchworth,* Brockham and Newdigate. Five barriers could be erected and raised only by a "smart card" given to residents and people in local businesses, although simpler schemes are also being considered.

Those villages are on the route of thousands travelling between Sussex, Gatwick, *London and the M25, and* trying to avoid bottlenecks at Redhill, Reigate and Dorking.

"About 70 per cent of the *traffic in these villages is just* passing through and with forecasts that traffic could triple in the county in the next 30 years, something needs to be done," said Jillian Green, manager of the Surrey project.

"Some people feel it is not safe to walk through their villages because of the amount and speed of traffic."

However, *Sarah Bloom*field, who runs the Plough in Leigh, said: "I am livid. Nobody seems able to tell me how *a card can be devised to tell the* difference between a driver passing through the village and one who is going to call on local residents or at my pub."

John Pharo-Tomlin, the local Conservative councillor, called instead for speed limits and traffic "calming" measures to slow vehicles through the villages. "The proposal to *introduce permits could have* a serious effect on local trade which needs passing traffic," he said.

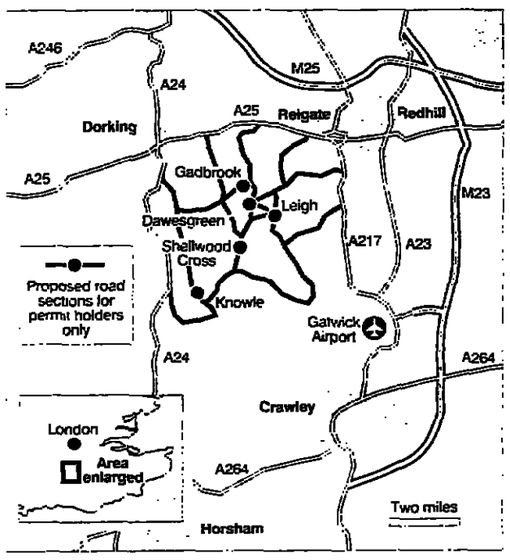
ERIC WHITEHEAD



Whose road is it anyway? Walkers and cars vie for space at Borrowdale in the Lake District



Foot patrols only: vehicles are banned, except for access, from this road near Ambleside



AA'S TOP 20 EASTER BLACKSPOTS

1: A6 in Leicestershire has a lane closure both ways near Lockington, just north *of junction 24 of the M1*
2: A11 in Norfolk has lane restrictions on the Wymondham bypass
3: A45 in Northamptonshire; between Higham Ferrers and Stanwick there are restrictions while construction work continues on the Skew bridge
4: A11 in Cambridgeshire; there continues to be a contraflow a few miles outside of Cambridge, between Stump Cross and Worsted Lodge
5: A40 in Oxfordshire has major work between Oxford and Eynsham for on-going strengthening work, and there is a chicane that will result in delays
6: A406 North Circular Road in the London borough of Enfield has improvement work that continues over Easter, near the junction with Hall Lane
7: A3 Kingston Bypass, to the southwest of London, has ongoing bridge repairs at Raynes Park with the outside lane closed both ways. All day today and tomorrow the road will be reduced to one lane southbound and two northbound
8: A20 Swanley interchange in Kent continues to have work on both the east and west bridges, which results in delays at the A20, M20, M25 interchange
9: M25 in Surrey has two sets of restrictions — between junctions 7 and 8 near Reigate, and between junctions 10 and 11, near Chertsey
10: A27 in Sussex; there is a contraflow near Angmering
11: A31 near the Hampshire/Dorset border has major roadworks at Ashley Heath
12: There are roadworks in Avon on the Batheaston bypass, which will result in long delays on the A4 *through Bath*
13: M5 Gloucestershire has major work between junctions 11 and 12, between Cheltenham and Gloucester
14: M4 in Gwent; there is a contraflow between junctions 23 and 22, near Newport
15: M56 Sharston Bypass in Greater Manchester is expected to be bad for those heading eastbound on the approach to the M63 at J1, because of roadworks
16: A34 in Greater Manchester has a contraflow on the Wilmslow *Road, Cheadle*
17: A16 on Humberside has a set of temporary traffic lights on Scartho Road, Grimsby
18: A19 *in Co Durham; between Peterlee and* Hawthorn there is a contraflow
19: A74 in Dumfries and Galloway; work continues on the Glasgow to Carlisle route at Kirkpatrick and Johnstonbridge
20: A78 in Strathclyde; temporary traffic lights at Weymess Bay, on the Greenock to Largs road.

BY THE time you read this you may already have been caught in what AA Roadwatch has been predicting as the worst traffic jams of the year so far, but it may help you avoid problems on your journey home.

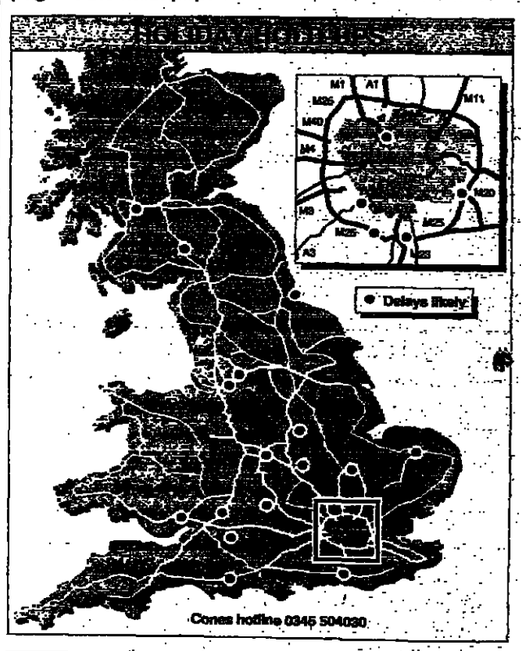
Even though the Easter rush to get away began early last week and the Highways Agency has ordered as many roadworks as possible to be lifted for Easter, there are still many major routes where roads will be narrowed and traffic heavy.

The promise of good weather is likely to increase congestion and ports and airports are expected to be especially busy, with the motoring organisations warning departing passengers to allow plenty of time for the early stages of holiday journeys.

As usual with Easter travel, the outgoing rush was compressed into Thursday and Friday, but because of school holidays, return journeys will be staggered throughout the coming week. While this is generally a *good thing, because it spreads the volume of traffic, it* can also have the unfortunate effect of causing sudden bursts of congestion when least expected.

An AA spokesman said: "Make sure your car is prepared for the trip: check fuel, lights, oil, water, elctrics and tyres before setting off."

Our listing and map show the AA's 20 worst hold-ups. Local AA Roadwatch numbers are listed on the back page of the main paper.



Prince's record drive

Continued from page 1

is spared. Then, if anything does break down, you fix it and afterwards just drive faster. It was a simple philosophy.

As it was, "Mother Gun" behaved faultlessly. Each driver drove for an hour at a time, and each of us had two drives, which meant that we did the 1,000 miles in a little over eight hours.

The wind was strong that day. As the car went around the circuit, it did not matter *that much provided you were* driving directly into it or it was coming from behind. But the cross-wind had the effect of trying to push the car up to the top of the banking, which was rather disconcerting. But we broke the record, which was a terrific moment.

My next event will be the *Mille Miglia* in May when I am driving a 1924 Red Label Speed Model which has a 4.5-litre engine in a 3-litre chassis and a reputation to match.

The *Mille Miglia* is a 1,000-mile loop around Italy starting and finishing in Brescia for cars which took part in the *Mille Miglia* over the years 1927-1957, when it was very much a race, or cars of their *equivalent.*

Bentley epitomises all that is British and best. This is a testing time for the company since the announcement of its collaboration with BMW over engine technology. I see it as a *sensible move. BMW is a* much bigger organisation and can provide Bentley with a sound financial base.

In any case, Bentley has a history of proving a master at taking other people's ideas and improving them to suit its purposes. So be it. I wish it well.

Bentley boys are back for revival meeting

Continued from page 1

was fierce. Meetings were as much social as sporting events: more Henley Regatta than Silverstone Grand Prix, with no numbers allowed on the racing cars, the drivers instead wearing colours like jockeys.

In the early days, race days were "meetings" with on-course betting just like a horse *race: cars were even handi*capped by price, with performance-handicapping only coming later.

It was an elite club where the Duke of Westminster would stroll the paddock acknowledging waves from Henry Segrave and Malcolm Campbell.

The public was largely irrelevant to the proceedings with the track sticking to its unofficial motto of "the right crowd and no crowding", the entrance fee of 5 shillings for the grand prix and £1 to get into the paddock keeping out the riff-raff.

After the First World War, though, Brooklands changed. The racing became more serious and the quest for better cars that could break records intensified. It was also the age of the Bentley, when Walter Owen Bentley built a series of two-ton monsters described by Bugatti as "the fastest lorries *in the world".*

If the cars were fast, the drivers were the stuff of Hollywood — a group of rich, aristocratic playboys led by Captain Sir Henry "Tim" Birkin. Apart from their exploits at Brooklands, the "Bentley boys" won four times at Le Mans, in 1929 finishing first, second, *third and fourth.*

As Britain staggered through the Depression, they gave the nation heroes to cheer: dashing young men driving Bentleys in British racing green. Birkin the most identifiable wearing his lucky dark blue, polka dot silk scarf for every race.

If modern times have forced today's owners to be more *pragmatic, the romance is just* as great. "These cars have so much character and are so remarkable for their day, the only emotion you can have towards them is admiration," says Stanley Mann, who with *Vaughan Davis has organised* the Brooklands Action Day to raise money to restore the old track to former glories and sustain its new museum and conference facilities.

"The action day will be a chance to see the cars up high on a banked track at these astonishing speeds in the way *that they used to race at* Brooklands. There will be nothing like it in the motoring calendar," says Mann.

The event will, however, be just as exclusive as those original Brooklands meetings. Tickets — limited to about 600 — are £150 a head for a day that includes VIP hospitality and the opportunity to be driven around the track in a *glorious car of the past.*

However, owners of pre-war cars can share in the festivities by driving to the vintage car picnic area (£39 for each car and its occupants) to enjoy the sounds and smells, reminiscent of the track's heyday between the wars.

Davis muses: "The greats of the past would have been amazed at the technological marvels of today, the sort of cars that would normally be testing at Millbrook every day of the week. But they would still have loved a go on that *Millbrook bowl, tearing* around the top lane at over 100mph, the wind beating onto them. Marvellous."

Information: Stanley Mann Racing, 01923 852505.

Win £150 tickets to the Brooklands speed feast

The NGK Spark Plugs Brooklands Action Day at Millbrook on May 29 is as exclusive as the early meetings at the famous track. As well as an *impressive line-up of* Bentleys it will feature rare Aston Martin, Bugatti, Itala, Stutz and Talbot Darracq cars among others, vintage motorcycles and a flying display. Viewing will be from a VIP area. Hospitality includes champagne, a four-course luncheon and afternoon tea.

The sponsors, NGK Spark Plugs, have kindly offered *two complimentary tickets (worth £150 each)* to be won by a reader of CAR 95. All you have to do is answer the following three questions and send your answers on a postcard to Bentley Quiz, CAR 95, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winner will be the first correct entry drawn on May 2. Usual competition rules apply.

1. What was W O Bentley's date of birth?
2. In which year did Rolls-Royce complete the takeover of Bentley motors?
3. What is the name of the Bentley model introduced last month?

هكذا من الاصل

Edward Gorman talks to some rally veterans leaving London next week in a 10,000-mile race to Acapulco

Past masters go for gold in Mexico rerun

The passage of time has done little to blunt the enthusiasm and skill of Tony Fall's driving. Piloting a rally car for the first time in anger since 1976, all the old magic which made him one of the world's top drivers in the late 1960s and early 1970s was still evident.

With deft flicks of the wheel, he pushed the growling Volvo 142S through the trees in a thick cloud of dust and spitting pebbles. At times, on the two-mile circuit at the Forest Experience rally school in the hills above Carno in Montgomeryshire, he reached speeds of more than 80mph as the car slewed into corners, completing the circuit in under two minutes.

"He hasn't lost his touch," gasped Pat Fall, his Californian second wife, after completing two circuits with him — her first time in a rally car. "He scared the hell out of me."

The testing session last week — the first for the car — marked the beginning of final preparations for Tony, 55, and co-driver Roy Dixon, 60, who join 58 other competitors at the start of the 25th anniversary London-Mexico Rally next Saturday.

Tony, one of four drivers who competed in the original race in 1970, when he and co-driver Jimmy Greaves, the footballer, finished in sixth place, was delighted with what he calls his "Swedish taxi".

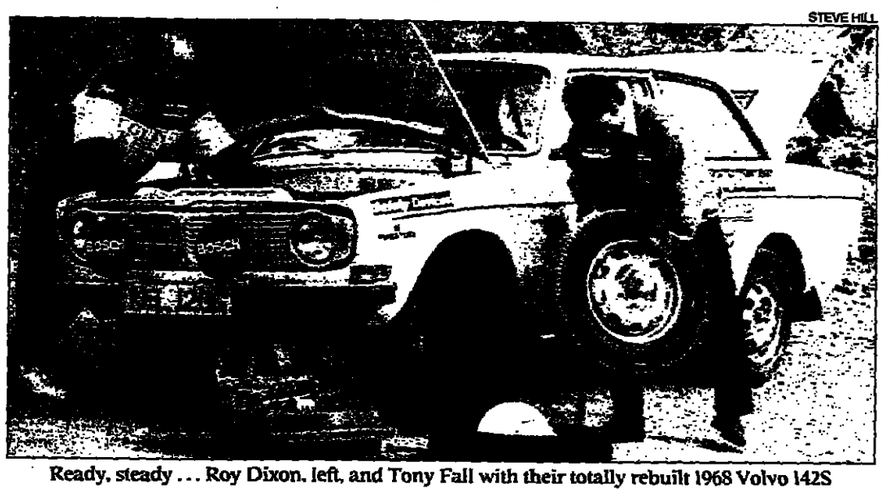
"That is very, very impressive," he said, taking off the heavy seatbelts which, like the roll cage, were supplied and fitted by his own company, Safety Devices.

"It is quite amazingly comfortable, very softly sprung. That's ideal because if it is too hard and you are thudding over 10,000 miles, you'll break all sorts of things you don't expect to break," he said. "Absolutely fabulous," grinned Roy in the navigator's seat.

The rally will take them through 18 countries. After timed stages in England, they'll drive through France, Spain and Portugal, then by air to Rio, up the spine of the Andes and through central America, before finishing in Acapulco in just 30 days.

The competitors are paying £15,000 to enter and, with an average age of 44, range from the winner of the original event, Hannu Mikkola, to motorsport enthusiasts such as Bill and Eileen Ainscough, who have entered the only pre-war car, a 1929 Chrysler 77, and Major Nick Sharples, of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, who is hoping to raise £10,000 for the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children through sponsorship.

STEVE HILL



Ready, steady ... Roy Dixon, left, and Tony Fall with their totally rebuilt 1968 Volvo 142S

Another entrant is Clay Regazzoni, the former Ferrari Formula One driver who was left partly paralysed after an accident in the American Grand Prix. He will drive his Mercedes 300SEL with hand controls only.

Many drivers have chalked up notable achievments in other areas: Sandy Dalgarno and Sandy Taylor are karting champions from Scotland; Janos Balazs is a Hungarian round-the-world yachtsman; Pat Cole, an Australian former world speed ski champion and Terry Kingsley, a former pilot with the RAF Red Arrows.

Organiser Nick Britton has insisted on 1970s or earlier cars and has outlawed teams of back-up mechanics, forcing competitors to carry spares and do their own repairs.

Roy Dixon, a businessman from the Isle of Man who has put up most of the £45,000 budget for his attempt with Tony Fall, considered a Peugeot 504 and a VW Beetle ("Tony and I don't exactly fit into a Beetle any more") before settling for the Volvo. "I chose the wheels, then the car to go with it," he said. "The 15in wheels give the car long legs over the distance. When you hit a pothole you are going to go over it, not into it."

The car came off the production line in 1968 but has been rebuilt after being stripped to the body shell by specialists in Stockholm. Then it spent three weeks at Safety Devices for the installation of the roll cage and other equipment, bringing the total bill for the vehicle to about £20,000.

The tuned-up engine, with twin carburettors, develops 140bhp. The car has two fuel tanks with a total capacity of 120 litres, the maximum allowed. Spare tyres have been sent ahead to various points en route, but there will be three in the car at the start, together with 100 kilos of spare parts and tools.

Personal items are being kept to a minimum and this is already a bone of contention. Roy wants to take six tins of baked beans and a large tin of Colman's mustard. Tony thinks the beans could affect the atmosphere in the car and are a heavy luxury they can ill afford.

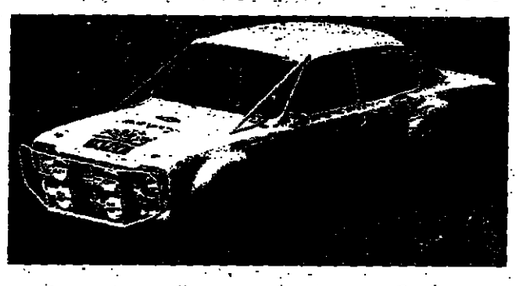
Roy wants to win. Tony, mindful of the fleet of Escorts which are likely to dominate at the front, is less ambitious. "A first five finish is just possible," he said. "It won't come from speed, though, but from the durability of the Volvo. We'll just have to keep it rolling along."

His main worry is the week in the Andes at above 14,500ft. Unlike some, they will not be taking oxygen, but falling asleep is not the only problem. "Everybody is going to fall into a big hole at some point and it's the ability of the car to come out the other side that will count."

Tony still has fond memories of his partnership with Jimmy Greaves who, he says, turned out to be a pretty hot driver. "When he was wide awake he was an excellent driver. He was a bit dangerous when he got tired, but he was good value in the nightclubs."

Pat Fall will run the company while her husband is away, but she's getting her week in Mexico whatever happens. "I'm going to Acapulco even if he isn't there."

Tony Fall and Roy Dixon will be reporting their progress during the rally each week in CAR 95 starting on April 29



'I'm not in to make up numbers. I aim to win'

Motorsport legend Roger Clark is as competitive as ever in the run-up to the rally, finds **Vaughan Freeman**. But he faces strong opposition from a host of other former champions

TONY WHITE



Can the old champs win again? From left, Gunnar Palm, Roger Clark and Hannu Mikkola, with current British rally champion Malcolm Wilson and Gwyndaf Evans

Roger Clark seems quite sane and sensible as he chats amiably over a cup of tea. True, it is just before lunch and he is wearing a blood-red suit of pyjamas. This is not, though, the louche affectation of a 55-year-old eccentric — it is his workaday fireproof driving outfit.

Clark, a giant of world rallying and one of the sport's most successful drivers, is preparing for the rerun of the 1970 London to Mexico rally, which begins next week. He is about to take me for a spin in a piece of motorsport history, a Mark II Ford Escort RS1800.

With him are former world rally champion Hannu Mikkola, 52, and Gunnar Palm, 58, who won the original event and will also be retracing the route across Europe and South America, travelling 10,000 miles through 18 countries in 30 days.

Clark's participation in the original event ended with a crash in Argentina. Assuming such hectic days were behind him, I asked whether I really needed the helmet and earplugs. Surely, after a third of a century of rally racing, Roger, Hannu and Gunnar would have slowed down a little?

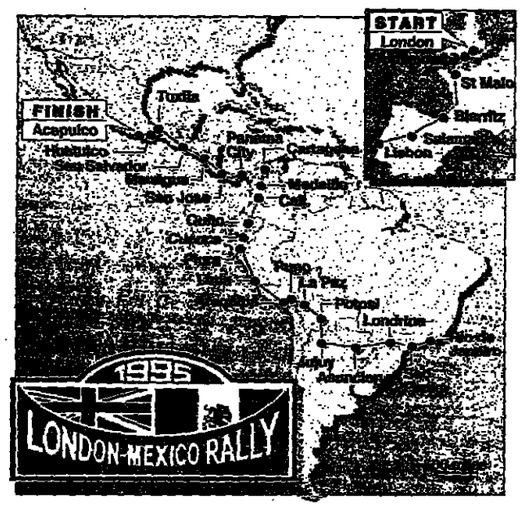
Not a bit. Clark drives as if every second counts. From cheery tea-drinker, a different man emerged as he clambered into the Escort, buckled on his helmet and secured his harness.

Suddenly I was next to somebody who wanted to win — anything and everything — and the next two minutes were a fog of dust and noise, travelling mostly sideways at an average 90mph over a three-mile forest circuit of Kent woodland. Clark's arms flailed, his legs pumped the pedals, and we skidded to a halt at the end of the course to clock the fastest time of the morning.

He just grinned as the sweat dried on my brow. Would he drive like that over the coming month and 10,000 miles of the London to Mexico? "If I don't, somebody else will," he said. "I'm competitive. I'm not going just to make up the numbers."

Why not just relax? The question clearly made no sense to Clark, who said: "We did the London to Sydney marathon 18 months ago and this seemed like the next sensible thing to do. It's certainly not a sprint, and there's no servicing allowed — if you bend it, you mend it. The hardest part will be driving for six days at 14,000ft through the Andes. That's going to be tiring. It is pretty raw countryside."

Not everybody taking part will adopt his combative approach and Clark is clearly fond of an event all can enjoy. "A lot of older people can enjoy this sort of thing without it being too competitive for them, and also it's affordable — you don't have to be able to pay £40,000 for a new gearbox."



Mikkola, world rally champion in an Audi in 1983, laments the more amateur approach of yesteryear: "The first London to Mexico was a long one — five weeks. In that respect, it will go into the history books. We had one special stage that was 600 miles long. We were driving very hard, at high altitude. I remember it being very hard and tiring. It was always particularly enjoyable driving the early Escorts.

"Motorsport today — and I only retired a year and a half ago — is far more serious. In the 1970s, it was just as difficult to win because we were all driving similar performance cars, but it was far more fun, perhaps because it was semi-professional. Today it is big business."

The Escorts, which proved their superiority 25 years ago and led the company to launch the Escort Mexico, are confidently expected to be at the front of the field again. They face stiff competition, though, from drivers who have chalked up rally wins throughout the world.

Ross Dunkerton, who will be driving with Harry Mansson in a Datsun 240Z, is a five-times Australian rally champion, a title also won twice by Dean Rainsford, who will be driving a Ford Mustang with his son, Ben. Roger Clark's son, Matthew, is competing in another Escort, co-driven by Max Harvey.

There is also Andras Jojart, a former Hungarian rally champion, Freddie van Beuren, a former Mexican champion and Ernst Harrach, a former Austrian champion.

Gunnar demonstrates that some caution has come with the passing years. He has been building his fitness with golf, ice skating and tennis, and says: "The greatest difficulty is going to be the altitude, which affects the heart when you are under stress.

"One main difference is that this time we will be taking oxygen with us to cope with the altitude. We did take it in 1970, but we threw it out when we were in Santiago because we were winning, and winning is the best thing for washing fatigue away. We felt we didn't need the oxygen. We will keep it with us this time, though.

"We must look after ourselves and our cars on our own. We cannot have any mechanics with us, so we are carrying all sorts of spare parts, even a spare radiator in case we hit anything front on."

What is the fascination of the event? Gunnar says: "The London to Mexico has captured the imagination probably because it was the longest rally ever held, and the highest. We ran at 15,000ft and more through the Andes from Argentina into Bolivia and Peru, on the most demanding roads I have ever known.

"You are driving at 5,000 metres, so you are among the clouds. It's the most beautiful landscape, scenery you cannot even dream of, with roads up and down the Andes."



Jet-car roars on to Internet

THRUST SSC, the car in which RAF Tornado pilot Andy Green is planning to set the world's first supersonic land speed record later this year, is already on the road: the information superhighway, that is, (Alan Copps writes).

Progress of the twin-engined, jet-powered car designed by Richard Noble, who currently holds the record at 633mph, can now be followed on the Internet via a Webserver provided by the computer company Digital. The programme can handle more than a million accesses a day and already contains more than 200 images, the history of the land speed record, technical data and much more. Information will be added right up to the attempt, scheduled for September, which will be seen and heard live on the Internet.

Those who wish to can use the Thrust SSC Webserver to join the Mach 1 Club, which is supporting the attempt. The Internet e-mail address, thrustssc.digital.co.uk, has been incorporated into the project's logo. An alternative route is: http://thrustssc.dec.co.uk.

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Electric car hits island test circuit

John Holland plugs in to a bold experiment to reduce pollution



LEIF ROSAS

Peter Katzmarack works on the Baltic island of Ruegen and drives an electric BMW as part of the pilot scheme

There is a joke on the island of Ruegen: what looks like a BMW, sounds like a golf cart, and drives about as fast as the old two-stroke East German-built Trabant?

Answer: the 60 experimental electric cars, vans and pick-ups which have been offered to islanders by German car-makers and the Ministry for Technology.

Here on the Baltic coast, designers from VW, Mercedes, BMW and Opel are attempting to produce an automotive culture with no carbon dioxide emissions. The German government wants to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 25 per cent within a decade and cars account for 30 per cent of them.

The 30-month-old test programme has meant putting the cars through everyday driving by selected Ruegen volunteers. Their daily records and read-outs from on-board computers will help determine if the plug-in vehicles can win over the hearts and minds of drivers in this petrol-guzzling, hard-driving society.

So far, the results have been mixed. "It's a nice car, sure, a status symbol somehow," says Michael Weissflog, a hotel employee in the Ruegen town of Binz, referring to the 1994 VW Caravelle van he drives.

"Yet my old Wartburg (an East German-made splutterer) was faster and didn't need a rest every 100 kilometres. But it is a useful experiment, and what the hell, it didn't cost anything."

The experimental (and enormous) test batteries, admits a Volkswagen spokesman, are still the vehicles' biggest hurdle. Several drivers said that at nearly a tonne and a half, the battery strains against even a light wind and makes the car impossible to push if it stalls, which is not infrequently.

Weissflog explained what it is like to drive his 8-seater VW bus. "It's really quite normal for the first 45 to 50km, then when you want to put your foot down you can't. The engine whines and if you push the accelerator too hard the engine threatens to pack it in. If you're in a real hurry this car is not going to ease your mind. But it does look nice."

Another one of its biggest advantages, being so quiet, is also a drawback because "few hear it coming and that has proved to be dangerous at times," said Guenther Scherelis, who admitted he was once nearly "pounced on" by a stealthy electro-car on the tiny neighbouring island of Hiddensee.

These sleepy, picturesque Baltic islands, with wide open spaces and gently rolling hills, seemed perfect to test the vehicles' capabilities. But changeable sea weather and gusty winds have often combined to stifle the electro-cars performance, especially when temperatures rise and fall dramatically.

But carmakers are quick to point out that this is designed as a research project and not a sales pitch. Volkswagen markets a two-door, five-speed Golf in Germany for £22,500 (DM49,500), but such is resistance, especially to the price, that it plans to make only 150 and has taken orders for just 50 vehicles.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The disc brake

THE disc brake is made up of a metal revolving disc sited just within the hub of the wheel.

Around the disc is the brake caliper which houses the slave cylinders, which are faced with the brake pads. The hydraulic fluid driven from the master cylinder at the foot brake feeds into these cylinders. The pads are made of a high friction material and cover between a sixth and one ninth of the disc.

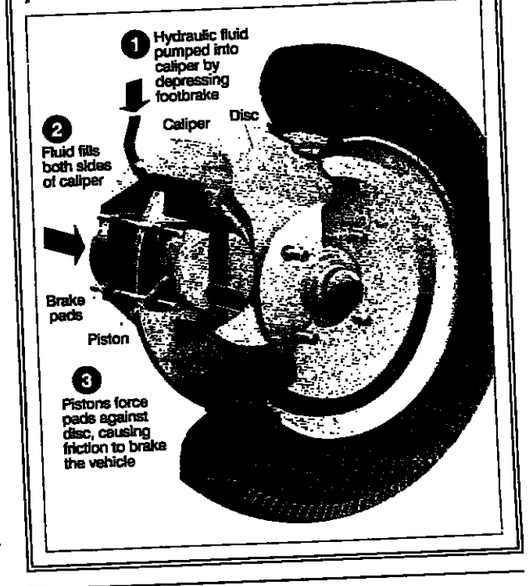
As the pads are pushed on to the disc by the slave cylinders, in the same way that the brake blocks on a bicycle are squeezed against the wheel rim, the rotation of the disc, the axle, wheel and thus the car is slowed.

The energy of the car's momentum is converted by the friction into heat, and the disc and brake pads heat up. The disc is open to the air except where it passes through the brake caliper, to allow for maximum cooling.

When the brake pedal is pushed, since fluid cannot be compressed, the foot pressure rams brake fluid from the master brake cylinder through the brake pipes to the slave cylinders at each of the car's four brakes. These operate small pistons sited opposite each other within the brake caliper and on each side of the disc. These force the brake pads flush up against the revolving disc.

Pressure throughout the braking system is constant so that each of the car's brakes has equal pressure applied. To make the job easier, some cars also have a brake servo-mechanism which automatically applies extra force when the brake pedal is pushed.

Brake pads must be checked every 6,000 miles or so, or before that if the brakes squeal, judder or pull to one side. The front brakes provide twice as much braking effort as the rear brakes, so most cars have disc brakes on the front wheels rather than the less efficient drum brakes, though many have disc brakes all round.



Full steam ahead to solve the alternative power game

VOLVO believes petrol and diesel fuels will remain the most important power source for cars despite the increasing pressure on car manufacturers to produce electric models, (Helen Mound writes).

Emission legislation in California insists that two per cent of the largest carmakers' sales must be "zero emission" models and by 2003 those selling more than 3,000 cars in the state must sell 10 per cent zero-emission models. Twelve other states are considering similar requirements.

Olle Boethius, Volvo's director of environmental affairs, says: "The car we know today has a limited future, but it's a combination of power sources that interests us."

Although currently the only "zero emission" vehicles are electric, Volvo has produced a database looking at alternative fuels such as coconut and rapeseed oils. These sound environmentally-friendly, but there are drawbacks — they have to be processed with methanol, causing hazardous fumes; used in diesel-engined vehicles, they increase nitrogen oxide emissions by 10 per cent; and there are problems with cultivation and harvesting.

The database covers research into crop rotation, harvesting techniques and volumes. The result: vegetable oils can make only a marginal contribution as a diesel fuel.

For liquid petroleum gas (LPG), emissions of hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide are lower than that of petrol, but consumption is higher. LPG is highly explosive and asphyxiating, and safety regulations are rigorous. But it is used as a fuel in Holland, Belgium and Japan.

In countries where sugar is abundant, ethanol is a potential fuel. Fermenting sugar and starch produces the fuel, but without special oils it can damage mechanical parts.

Volvo claims LPG and natural gas appear to be the most realistic complements to petrol, the latter being the most cost-effective.

The company has also built dual-fuel cars that run on methane by putting an extra tank in the boot and adding an injection system. A button on the dashboard switches the fuel supply from petrol to gas without the slightest change in driving sensation.

Birger Agnetun, Volvo's manager for energy and power sources, says: "Methane is the only sensible short-term solution to emission problems. It's cheaper and as abundantly available as crude oil. It also reduces 'greenhouse gases' by up to 25 per cent."

Electricity is the most talked about power source for cars of the future, but Stephen Wallman, the firm's director of hybrid vehicles (combined electric and petrol powered cars), says: "Nobody can guarantee that the 10 per cent of electric cars sold in California will be used. Even if people buy these cars, they are likely to want to drive a traditional combustion-engined model as well."

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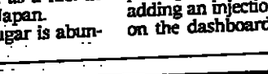
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GED MELLING

Thinking of selling your car? **Tony Dawe** investigates offers you would do well to refuse

Alert over menace of small ad sharks

Motorists trying to sell prestige second-hand cars are being told to think twice about deals which might be too good to be true.

"A number of firms are contacting owners who have advertised in motoring magazines and newspapers to offer them more than the asking price. The catch is that the money is paid in monthly instalments over one or two years with a lump sum at the end. The danger of such deals is that owners who hand over their cars might not receive all their money.

"We believe that as many as 90 per cent of cars sold in this way are never paid for fully," said Margaret Waldren of the Finance and Leasing Association, whose members offer more orthodox car hire and leasing deals.

"Our advice to anyone contemplating an offer like this is to seek legal guidance before signing anything."

The Office of Fair Trading said: "The main concern with deals like this is what happens to the consumer if the company goes out of business." The OFT can take action against companies which breach the terms of the consumer credit licences it issues but these companies do not require a licence as the seller is extending credit to them.

Some of the people thought to be behind the new scam were involved in vehicle transfer agencies which were criticised by the OFT and the Finance & Leasing Association in the early 1990s.

The agencies took over hire purchase agreements and cars from people who could no longer afford to keep up the payments. They then passed on the vehicle and the debt to people who would normally be judged a poor credit risk without telling the finance companies. If the new owners defaulted on payments, the finance companies would chase the original owner, who was still liable.

The latest racket works on similar lines with the vehicle agency often passing on cars it has acquired to people with poor credit records who are supposed to pay by instalments. The agency takes a fee, based on a percentage of the car's value from the new owner, so it still makes a profit should the car disappear or the purchaser renege on the payments. The only loser is the original owner.

One agency is under investigation by Greater Manchester Police, whose officers raided its premises after the Stockport trading standards department had compiled a dossier of complaints.

Among the people approached by another agency were Sally and Fraser Flower of Cornwall, who advertised their 1991 Mercedes 230 estate for £16,750. "I was astonished to be phoned up and offered £18,200 for the car, the first £4,800 in 12 monthly instalments with a lump sum at the end," Mr Flower said.

"I was dubious about the deal and even less impressed when I received a written offer." It was addressed to "Mr Slawer" and the contract attached to it was one closely-typed and unheaded sheet.

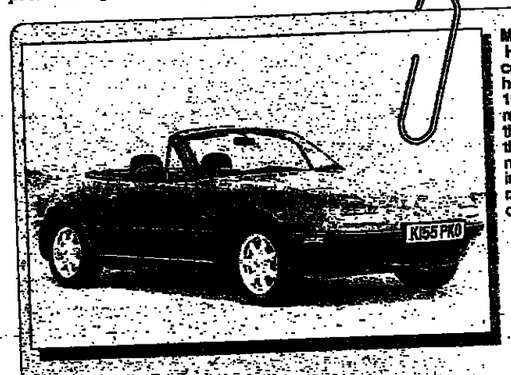
It did offer various guarantees, including a promise that Mr Flower could keep the log book until he received the final payment and that the car would be fitted with an AA Tracker device "so police could find it in an emergency".

Mr Flower decided to seek a more conventional buyer but received another call from the same man when he re-advertised the car in a different publication. "I asked him for better rates and he put the phone down," Mr Flower said.

John Nash, of southeast London, received the same approach when he advertised a similar Mercedes for £19,950. He was offered £22,376, in 12 monthly payments of £500 with a final lump sum of £16,376. "I thought it was a diabolical liberty," he said.

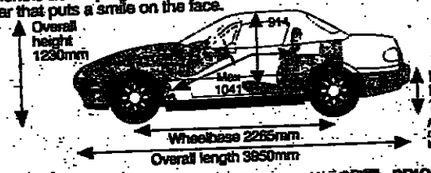
Trevor Wiffen, Cheshire's trading standards officer, is investigating a complaint about the company. "A chap contacted us to say that he had not received the payments promised. When he spoke to the company, he was told the car had been stolen before there had been time to fit the tracking device. I leave you to draw your own conclusions."

USED CAR BRIEF



MAZDA MX-5

Hailed as the modern MG that Rover never built, the two-seat MX-5 convertible sportster from Mazda, has won universal acclaim for its handling, and for looks reminiscent of the lovely Lotus Elan of the 1960s. A fine example of the Japanese manufacturer's skill in reinventing and improving European motoring traditions, in this case the low-budget, open-top car with fun rather than outright performance the main attraction. The traditional front-engine, rear-wheel-drive layout makes for excellent ride and handling. The original 1.6 and later 1.8-litre injected engines, plus an exhaust system that Mazda engineers spent months developing for the right sporty note, make the MX-5 the sort of car that puts a smile on the face.



GOOD NEWS: Launched in 1990 with 1.6-litre injected engines, power steering, all-round disc brakes and alloy wheels, the MX-5 appeals to drivers who love their cars and their driving. As a result most used examples should be in good condition.

BAD NEWS: If you are used to trunks, cases and suitcases accompanying you on your weekend jaunts, forget the MX-5. Boot space is tiny, catering best for soft, stuff bags, and few of them. Check soft roof for leaks.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: (Prices include VAT); clutch assembly £175; full exhaust £170; rear damper £95; front damper £100; front brakepads £50; radiator £200; starter motor £130; Tyre £45-£85.

SAFETY RATING: In the safety stakes, biggest is usually best. The luxury 1.8iS model, however, comes with driver airbag and anti-lock braking. Enthusiasts insist car's excellent handling helps avoid accidents in the first place.

PRICE RANGE: With Summer round the corner, prices now are firm. Expect to pay around £7,000 for a 1990 G-registered 1.6i, £10,000 for a 1992 J-reg 1.6i, between £12,000 and £13,000 for a 1994 L-reg 1.8i, and £15,000 for the more lavishly appointed L-reg 1994 1.8i S.

INSURANCE: Cover from AA Insurance (0990 44477?) on a 1992 MX-5 will cost a 55-year-old professional male with full no claims bonus and living in Winchester, £226 a year fully comprehensive, and a 55-year-old female will pay £221. A 22-year-old male living in London with one year no claims bonus, will pay £2,888 fully comprehensive, and a similar female £2,458.

LOOK FOR: If you want a little extra performance seek out the 1.8i 130bhp engined versions introduced in 1994 to replace the original 1.8i 115bhp unit. Expect to pay 10 to 15per cent more for lovely-loaded special editions such as the British Racing Green model and MX-5 SE (special edition) with leather trim and wood steering wheels.

TO AVOID: Budget versions of the more recently-introduced 1.8i engined-car lack power steering which makes parking a bit of a chore. Side-impact bars only introduced as standard from January 1993.

OVERALL: A top speed that most family saloons can match doesn't sound like a recipe for fun driving. But the MX-5 has earned a fond place in the hearts of those who enjoy their motoring and are happy to sacrifice four seats and luggage space for good looks and fine handling.

DR DASHBOARD

The safe way to fix a puncture

Q What do I do if I get a puncture?

A Change the wheel. Last year, 72,500 people called on the RAC to change a wheel. It was the fourth most popular reason for calling the service. But most of them could have done the job themselves. It's a simple procedure but don't treat it like child's play. There are a number of safety rules to be observed. The first thing to do is to make the immediate area safe.

Q How do I do that? Should I get the car off the road?

A If possible, yes. If not, work as far away from traffic as possible. Place a warning triangle 40ft behind the car. Position the vehicle on a level, solid surface, or carry a flat piece of wood to support the jack. Make sure all passengers are out of the car and safely away from any traffic danger.

Q How much equipment do I need to get the wheel off?

A Place the spare wheel, jack and wheel brace by your side. Remove the hub cap. Loosen the wheel nuts slightly by one or two turns, while the wheel is still on the floor. Jack up the car a couple of inches, leaving room for the wheel to rotate. Finish taking off the wheel nuts, and put them safely in the hub cap. Remove the wheel.

Q But what if the wheel nuts are on too tight?

A Avoid using your feet. You can buy an extension lever for the wheel brace, or improvise with something that is a good fit. But do not use a handle when tightening the nuts. Check that you could remove the wheel nuts in an emergency and if not, ask a garage to loosen them.

Q Then how do I get the spare wheel on to the hub?

A Place the good wheel on to the studs, and put the wheel nuts on quite loosely. Tighten them using your fingers, then use the wheel brace. It's a good idea to carry some grease and apply this to the studs when you replace the nuts. Put the hub cap on. Stow away the wheel brace, jack and punctured tyre. Check you have left nothing on the road.

Q Should I stand to change the wheel?

A Squat or kneel — whatever is most comfortable. Carry a blanket or cushion in the car. Above all, do not put your legs under the car when you are changing the wheel. When CAR 95 carried an item two weeks ago on women changing tyres, we showed a woman with her feet beneath the car while it was supported by a scissor jack. This is dangerous. Push the damaged wheel beneath the car before attaching the spare. It will take the weight if the jack collapses.

Q What can I do to help myself before an emergency?

A Practise, and check your equipment. Know where the jacking points are, and clean them once a month. Grease your jack regularly, and check the pressure of your spare tyre. If the spare is underneath the car, buy a lock, and check that it has not been stolen. And remember to fix the punctured tyre as soon as possible.

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The Bishop of Peterborough confesses his driving weaknesses to **Andrew Pierce**

'Thank God I have a driver'

GEOFF ROBINSON



The chauffeur and the bishop: "The last time I drove myself was 36 years ago"

The Bishop of Peterborough, the Right Rev William Westwood, will perform his last Easter services this weekend before retiring after 20 years as a bishop.

He caused a stir last year when he suggested the bishop's palace should be sold because it was so large, cold and expensive to run. He is now looking forward to retiring to a small cottage in Yorkshire. "It should be a bit warmer," he says.

How did you learn to drive?



I gave up after a few lessons. The last time I drove was in 1959 at 2am when my son was being born. The midwife asked me to move her car, which I did, trembling with fear about the car and impending fatherhood. I was also cold, as I was in my dressing gown. I must say, though, the roads seem to be full of drivers with levels of ability similar to my own.

What was your first car?

My father's Austin Seven. He used to pack it with so much stuff I had to stand on the back seat.

What do you drive now?

My wife has a Mini Metro and the Church of England has a Rover 820. I thank God I have the luxury of a driver.

What is your dream car?

Lord Hesketh's BMW. I am a great admirer and love the story about the headmaster of Ampleforth asking one of the boys what a helicopter was doing hovering in the school grounds. "Oh, that's Alexander Hesketh. He's running away," said one of the pupils. He has just as much style in his mode of transport today.

What is your most hated car?

The one with a young driver passing me on Peterborough Parkway at 85mph. He does not fill me with hatred but terror as I reach for my book containing the Last Rites.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Bursting into song. I never get beyond the first couple of lines and cannot sing. It must be terribly distracting for the driver and my wife.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

When they leave a slipway on a dual carriageway and join the traffic without slowing down, oblivious to the fact they are joining other cars.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

I was being driven in a Mini on a straight road in Lowestoft when there was little traffic. Suddenly, I was seized by an overwhelming sense of panic that a lorry would thunder round the corner and flatten the Mini. I took to the pavement. The driver carried on unscathed. I still can't explain it. But the panic was very real.

What do you listen to in the car?

The sound of my own voice. I enjoy total tranquillity in the car so I can readjust and practise my sermons.

If you were Transport Secretary, what is the first thing you would do?

Restore 2,000 miles of railway line.

What is your favourite/most hated car advert?

Why are there never any other cars on the road in the ads? I might take up driving if I could find even one road like that.

Formula One boss seeks safer roads

The "scandalous" lack of progress in car safety over the past 20 years is to be targeted by one of the most powerful international pressure groups in motoring, the FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile), which organises Formula One racing (Vaughan Freeman writes).

Max Mosley, president of the FIA, says by launching the campaign, the organisation is returning to the cause which inspired its foundation in 1904. A Formula One driver who crashes at speed now has a two-and-a-half times better chance of avoiding death or serious injury than a motorist who crashes a saloon car. The racing driver's chances of survival have improved 30 times in the past 30 years, and although progress has been made on the roads, it has been much slower.

The FIA blames what it sees as feet-dragging in Brussels and a "united front" of silence among carmakers who have not fully exploited available technology.

First on the agenda will be a demand for cars to be able better to withstand the sort of roll-over accident which was responsible for Formula One team boss Frank Williams being confined to a wheelchair. The FIA also wants higher standards for child seat restraints, and new design codes that would prevent luggage stored in the boot, or in the back of an estate, bursting into the passenger compartment in an accident. That often causes injuries to occupants who might otherwise



Mosley: "it's outrageous"

have been relatively unscathed.

The FIA's campaign follows the dramatic and unannounced arrival in Brussels last month of the federation together with Formula One driver Gerhard Berger. They argued against what many see as the "watered-down" proposals for crash tests being proposed by European civil servants.

Mosley said: "I had assumed that motoring safety had progressed at the same rate as in F1. I found it utterly shocking that it hasn't.

"What I find quite scandalous is that we know manufacturers have the technology and resources to build cars that are safer. The tougher side-impact crash tests we want introduced in Europe are already in force in America. For every day they are delayed, we estimate that across Europe, 240 people a day are being needlessly injured, and 14 are dying who need not.

"In the 1960s, F1 drivers had a one in 10 chance of being killed or injured in an accident. Now that risk has dropped to one in 300, even though average speeds have risen from 130mph to 190mph." He said advances in the safety of road cars should have progressed at the same rate. "Yet here we are using crash tests that were introduced 20 years ago."

In Brussels, he said, the delaying effect of the committee system, plus the pressure groups working on behalf of the motor industry, combined to slow and dilute proposals for tougher legislation. "It is outrageous, and we plan to be getting very active in Brussels to change things," he said.



On the grid for a taste of life in the fast lane

Alexandra Frean reports on the run-up to her Brands Hatch debut

Many road drivers dream of racing a custom-built vehicle round a circuit and speeding past chequered flags. This weekend I will have the chance to indulge my own passion for fast cars, by taking part in the Ford Credit Fiesta Championship at Brands Hatch.

The event, now more than a decade old, is well-established as one of the leading single-make saloon car racing series in the country. It is an ideal entry point into the sport for aspiring racing drivers and involves cars that have undergone only a limited number of changes from their road specification.

The event is also known for providing a mixture of experience and raw talent. Most of the drivers at Brands Hatch this weekend are seasoned saloon car racers, but I am a complete novice with only a limited amount of training.

Undaunted at the prospect of humiliation and armed with the knowledge that motor racing has fewer fatalities than horse riding, rugby, hockey and even angling, I prepared by attending training courses at Brands Hatch and Silverstone.

About 30,000 novice drivers a year pass through courses such as these, which are run by professional drivers who combine lessons in theory, safety and trackcraft with practical instruction.

My instructors, Tim Jones, a former British Formula Three driver, at Brands Hatch, and Steve Deeks, a VW Vento driver, at Silverstone, told me to unlearn my basic road driving skills.

Never, they said, thread the wheel through your hands, but keep them firmly planted at a "ten to two" position, even if it means you have to cross your arms on a tight bend — it may be uncomfortable, but you always know exactly which way the front wheels are facing. Novices are also taught never to use the gears to slow down; that is what the brakes are for.

I also had to learn about the "racing line" — the shortest route through every bend — and a lot of other theory.

Frankly, for a novice it is terrifying. It is also, as they say, one of the most exciting and thrilling things you can do with your clothes on, and it is well worth overcoming the initial fears.

> 'One of the most exciting things you can do with clothes on'

I was absolutely awful at first. There was so much theory to remember, I forgot to drive fast. I was also incapable of making smooth gear changes and of slowing down sufficiently early before each bend — my first few circuits were unbearably jerky. With a bit of practice, I became better and slightly faster and the ride got smoother.

I am racing on Easter Monday with the backing of Ford to raise money for Women On the Move Against Cancer, a charity formed in 1979 by a group of women involved in motoring, and for The Macmillan Appeal.

Events such as the Fiesta Championship can be a useful stepping stone for aspiring racers.

One of the event's most successful graduates is the super touring driver James Kaye, who won awards at the event in 1992 and and 1994. My main aim in the race is more modest — not to win, just to finish in one piece.

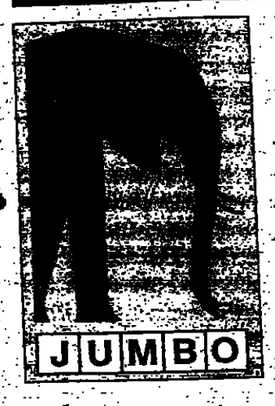
Alexandra Frean will report back next week



Fast forward: Alexandra Frean with instructor Tim

هذا من الاصل

GAMES



Win £100 with the jumbo holiday crossword

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PLUS: Win a Philips CD-i player, page 21

ACTIVITIES



The pick of Easter outings for all the family

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PLUS: News from the salerooms, page 2

TRAVEL



Anthony Holden's Venice, with a sting in the tale

Page 17

PLUS: The Bahamas, child's paradise, page 16

ARTS



Benedict Nightingale on the new Under Milk Wood

Page 5

PLUS: John Cole, by Matthew Parris, page 10

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 15 1995



By Joseph Connolly

"But she must have a prize herself, you know," said the Mouse.

"Of course," the Dodo replied very gravely. "What else have you got in your pocket," he went on, turning to Alice.

"Only a thimble," said Alice sadly.

"Hand it over here," said the Dodo.

Then they all crowded round her once more, while the Dodo solemnly presented the thimble, saying: "We beg your acceptance of this elegant thimble;" and, when it had finished this short speech, they all cheered.

This memorable extract from Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, with its attendant and equally famous Tenniel illustration, has done more than anything to perpetuate the dodo's renown and the enormous affection that this long-extinct bird — weird, flightless and, by all accounts, generally pretty useless all round — continues to inspire. The dodo may be dead, but it sure as blazes won't lie down.

Tenniel's drawing was based on the 1651 painting by the Dutch artist Jan Savery, but nevertheless contrives to make the bird a slightly less lumpish creature, by means of the judicious addition of hands and a walking stick. Until recently, the Savery picture (see left) was accepted as the true likeness of the legendary bird — swollen neck, bulbous hook bill, deranged eyes, perfectly preposterous tail feathers and token fluffy wings. However, recent research has challenged the traditional depiction of a squat-legged and hugely obese dodo. Measurements of hundreds of sub-fossil bones — unearthed from a Mauritian swamp in the 1860s — in the Natural History Museum, London, and the Cambridge Zoology Museum, plus calculations of how much weight the bird could have carried, now suggest that the generally accepted big, fat dodo would have been far too heavy for its skeleton to support, and would have collapsed under its own weight.

A new reconstruction of how the dodo might really have looked is much slimmer, longer in the leg and rather more athletic — much in line with the first drawing of the bird when it was sighted in 1598, on the island of Mauritius.

Mauritius is one of three small islands, known as the Mascarenes, thousands of miles off the east coast of Africa. Although records exist of Arabs visiting the island as early as the 12th century, it was not until 1598 that the Dutch took possession, named it Mauritius and, about 40 years later, established the first colony. The man in charge of the six ships that claimed the island was Admiral Jacob Cornelius van Neck: he had decided that it was a useful port of call for stocking up on supplies as the ships sailed between Europe and the East Indies. In those days, Mauritius was thick with dense forests of ebony and bamboo, and among plentiful fish and fruits were more than 20 types of bird found nowhere else in the world. Today, 11 of the species are extinct — the most arresting of which is the dodo. The nine breeds that survive are the smallest, the most notable being the pink pigeon.

Of course, the dodo was not *called* the dodo; it had no name at all, but it very soon acquired one: *valghvogel*, which translates loosely as "disgusting bird". The word "dodo" came later, we presume from the Dutch word

Continued on page 3, col 1

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CHOICE

Planning an evening out, or a day with your family? *The Times* critics select the best events

ROCK

David Sinclair

SOUND CITY '95: Bristol is the city in the spotlight this year as the British music business and Radio 1 convene for their annual week of concerts, seminars and assorted festivities. Bands playing in the Anson Rooms include: Menswear, Supergrass and EMF (Mon 17); Elastica, Gene and Fin (Tues 18); Radiohead, Teenage Fanclub and Strangelove (Wed 19); Suede, Sleeper and Ash (Thur 20); Dreadzone, *Pulp* and *The Bluetones* (Fri 21); Moist, Reef and Headswim (Sun 23). The other main venue is New Trinity which will feature acts including Orbital, Skunk Anansie and Dub War (Mon 17); Utah Saints and The Orb (Tues 18); Jesus and Mary Chain and dEUS (Wed 19); Kingmaker and Marion (Thur 20); The Prodigy and The Chemical Brothers (Fri 21). There are many more acts — from jazz to rave, world music to pub rock — and activities such as discussion groups and instrumental workshops. Much of the event will be broadcast nightly on Radio 1 from 7.30pm. For credit card bookings and information ring 0117 929 9008.

OASIS: Oasis is back from a long stint in America where, despite several cancelled shows, they managed to make a modest mark. Back at home the group maintains its juggernaut-like momentum with the release next week of a new single, *Some Might Say*, to coincide with their headlining show at the Sheffield Arena.
Cliffs Pavilion, Southend-on-Sea (01702 351135), Apr 17; **Sheffield Arena** (0114 2565656), Apr 22.

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

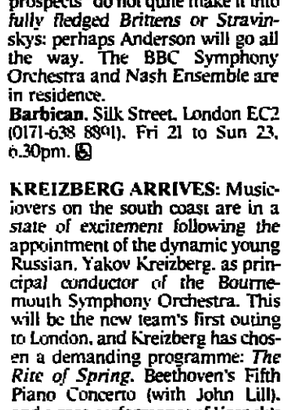
BRITISH MUSIC NOW: An imposing title for a weekend of Barbican concerts featuring "five of the most brilliantly talented British composers". Do you recognise yourselves, Robin Holloway, Colin Matthews, Julian Anderson, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Oliver Knussen? Four of those gents have been around for years; the odd man out is Anderson, still in his early twenties and regarded as a very bright prospect. The slightly galling aspect of our otherwise flourishing compositional scene is that so many "very bright prospects" do not quite make it into fully fledged Britttens or Stravinskys: perhaps Anderson will go all the way. The BBC Symphony Orchestra and Nash Ensemble are in residence.
Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891). Fri 21 to Sun 23, 6.30pm.

KREIZBERG ARRIVES: Music-lovers on the south coast are in a state of excitement following the appointment of the dynamic young Russian, Yakov Kreizberg, as principal conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. This will be the new team's first outing to London, and Kreizberg has chosen a demanding programme: *The Rite of Spring*, Beethoven's Fifth Piano Concerto (with John Lill), and a rare performance of Krenek's dramatic monologue, *Medea*.
Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 8800), Thurs 20, 7.30pm.

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

COSI FAN TUTTE: Nicolette Molnár's fresh, unaffected staging for the English National Opera of Mozart's partner-swapping comedy updates the action to the 1950s (the men return disguised as urban cowboys, pardners rather than partners) and adds a delicious politically correct twist at the end. There is a young cast led by Rita Cullis, Sara Fulgoni and newcomer Charles Workman. Nicholas Kok, whose witty conducting gave such pleasure when the production was new last year, is again in charge.
London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-836 3161). Fri 21, 7pm.



Ben Heppner as Peter Grimes

PETER GRIMES: The 50th anniversary revival of Britten's opera about persecution (or persecution mania — take your pick) is graced by Ben Heppner's overwhelming performance in the title role of Elijah Moshinsky's production, which takes the persecution option — Grimes is innocent, OK? Bryn Terfel and Josephine Barstow are Balstrode and Ellen, and there are some neat supporting performances. Arturo Tamayo's conducting, turgid on the first night, may have perked up by now.
Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000). Wed 19, 7.30pm.



Elastica will be playing in the Anson Rooms, Bristol, on Tuesday April 18. The band is one of many taking part in Sound City '95

JAZZ

Clive Davis

SONNY FORTUNE/HANK CRAWFORD: *Sonny Fortune* was the alto saxophonist and flautist in Miles Davis's far-out 1970s fusion band. Twenty years on he has moved closer to the bop mainstream, his latest Blue Note album being a selection of tunes by Thelonious Monk. Another, saltier brand of alto playing is embodied by Hank Crawford, formerly of the Ray Charles orchestra. His sax and Hammond organ double-act with Jimmy McGriff blends funk with brains.
Fortune: **Jazz Café**, Parkway, London NW1 (0171-916 6000). Fri 21, Sat 22, 9pm.
Crawford: **Ronnie Scott's**, Broad Street, Birmingham (0121-643 4525), tonight, support set from 8.30pm; **Ronnie Scott's**, Frith St, London W1 (0171-439 0747), Mon 17 to Sat 22; support set from 9.30pm.

BARBARA DICKSON/JOHN PIZZARELLI: *An intimate venue* is undoubtedly the best place to savour the purity of Barbara Dickson's voice. Her show in the Green Room forms a guided tour through the many facets of popular song. She receives excellent support from a trio including the subtle reeds player Pete Zorn. Dickson finishes her London season this week, as does the young swinger John Pizzarelli. Touted as another Harry Connick Jr, he is a sparkling guitar player with a tasteful line in revivalist songs. Nat King Cole provides the subject of his new album, *Dear Mr Cole*.
Dickson: **Café Royal**, Regent St, London W1 (0171-437 9090), tonight, Tue 18 to Sat 22, 9.15pm (dinner from 7pm).
Pizzarelli: **Pizza on the Park**, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5273), until Sat 22, 9.15pm.

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

SOANE — CONNOISSEUR AND COLLECTOR: Sir John Soane's Museum has never had a temporary exhibition space of its own. The museum houses vast numbers of Soane's collection of architectural drawings, few of which could be seen because of the static nature of the displays. Both deficiencies are remedied by the creation of the new Soane Gallery, which gives an insight into Soane's relatively modest beginnings. The first exhibition is a quick but impressive sampling of Soane's taste as a collector.
Sir John Soane's Museum, 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2 (0171-405 2107), Tues-Sat, 10am-5pm; first Tuesday of each month, 6-9pm, until Sep 2.

CONROY MADDOX — SURREAL ENIGMAS: For six of his eight decades, Maddox has been a committed Surrealist. He imbibed the Surrealist spirit at source from Dali, Man Ray, Max Ernst, and Marcel Duchamp, all of whom he knew in Paris in the late 1930s, and joined the Surrealist group in England in 1939. This important touring retrospective shows admirable consistency and continuous development.
City Museum and Art Gallery, Bethesda Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent (01782 202173), Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2-5pm, to June 4.

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

YOUNG BRITISH ARTISTS: An absorbing cluster of emerging talent at the Saatchi Gallery. Most spectacular is John Frankland's lift installation, which beguiles and finally disturbs. It is almost as frozen as Marcus Taylor's fridge sculptures, where the perspex surfaces have been sanded to mist over the empty interiors. The result is eerily beautiful, whereas Brad Lochore's shadow paintings are too elegant to possess a sinister undertow. Gavin Turk is the most provocative contributor — especially in a gun-toting waxwork figure of Sid Vicious posing as Elvis in a Warhol painting. But Marcus Harvey is the most disturbing artist, with his orgiastic and yet coolly explicit paintings of female nudes.
Saatchi Gallery, 98a Boundary Road, London NW8 (0171-624 8299), Thurs-Sun only, noon-6pm, until June 25.

SPANISH STILL LIFE: Quiet revelations are provided by the National Gallery, in a concise yet intensely dramatic survey of still life painting thoughout Spain. The show-stopper comes first: a series of mesmerising pictures by Juan Sánchez Cotán. He made melons and cabbages into things of wonder. Velázquez is more subtle, directing our attention away from his figures towards the eggs and fish assembled in the foreground. But Goya reminds us that still life is dead meat. His carcasses and dead turkey bring the show to an unnerving conclusion.
National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (0171-839 3321), until May 21.

DANCE

John Percival

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: Classic showpieces and a forceful modern work are combined in the programme which begins a tour to five middle-scale theatres. The vivacity of dances from Bournonville's *Napoli* and *Flower Festival at Genzano*, the grandeur of Petipa's wedding duet from *The Sleeping Beauty* and his *Paquita Grand Pas* are set against *X.N.Tricities* by the Italian choreographer Mauro Bigonzetti to make an entertaining evening.
The Orchard, Dartford (01322 220000), Apr 21, 7.45pm; Apr 22, 2.30pm and 7.45pm; **The Swan**, High Wycombe (01494 512000), Apr 28, 29; **The Anvil**, Basingstoke (01256 844244), May 4, 5; **Haymarket Theatre**, Leicester (0116 253 9797), May 16, 17; **Civic Theatre**, Darlington (01325 486555), May 19, 20.

SPRING LOADED: A host of small companies are taking part in the Place Theatre's festival of British independent dance. Among the best known performing this month are the Claire Russ Ensemble in *Dangerous When Wet* (tonight), Ben Craft's collaboration with drummer Paul Robinson and singer Pepi Lemer (Apr 20), and the Richard Alston Dance Company in new works by Henri Oguike, Andrew Robinson and Ben Wright (Apr 26-29), all at 8pm.
The Place Theatre, Dukes Road, London WC1 (0171-387 0031).

FILM

Geoff Brown

AN AWFULLY BIG ADVENTURE (15): Hugh Grant teams up again with director Mike Newell, though this darkly comic film may not enlarge the star's new following. A callous, manipulative theatre director, he sits in rehearsals in postwar Liverpool, a sneer and a fag permanently fixed to his lips. The young, starstruck heroine strangely adores him, but as the repertory company muddles through Priestley, Shaw and *Peter Pan*, this innocent comes to appreciate the gulf between fantasy and reality. Beryl Bainbridge's novel makes a fascinating film, crammed with dingy, backstage atmosphere, and Georgina Cates, as the wide-eyed girl, is quite a find.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636), **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527), **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148); **Notting Hill Coronet** (0171-727 6705); **Richmond** (0181-332 0030); **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332); **Warner** (0171-437 4343).

ONCE WERE WARRIORS (18): Lee Tamahori's forceful film about Maori culture in the urban ghetto outgrossed *Jurassic Park* at New Zealand's box-office, and sent its director to Hollywood. The visual intensity and ghetto landscape already suggests an American film, though what makes the story haunting is its cry of agony from the dispossessed Maori people, strikingly photographed and powerfully acted.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); **Electric** (0171-792 2020); **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527), **Warner** (0171-437 4343).

● *More films, page 6.*

THEATRE

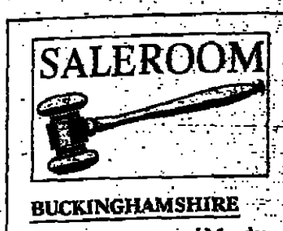
Benedict Nightingale

UNCLE VANYA: Peter Gill's production occurs in a bleak Russia: people with arms folded and stark brown furniture set at severe angles. But those who admire Stephen Rea (and who doesn't?) will welcome the opportunity to see him raging and cackling through the title-role, a Vanya who makes us feel his desperation and absurdity if not quite his grieving heart.
Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, London NW6 (0171-328 1000). Evenings: Mon to Sat, 8pm; matinées: Sat, 4pm; until Apr 29.

ONE FINE DAY: A glum Liverpudlian talking in Shirley Valentine-mode for two hours about losing his children to accusing social workers does not sound like a recipe for a good time, does it? Sample Dennis Lumborg's text and Joe McGann's rueful performance, and you will surely change your mind. This is a funny, wise, troubling and humane play.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-369 1730). Evenings: Mon to Sat, 8pm; matinées: Sat, 5pm; Thur, 3pm.

● *More theatre, page 6.*

SALEROOM



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Today, tomorrow and Monday (April 15, 16, 17) some 40 dealers have set up shop in the grounds of Stowe School in Buckinghamshire for the Easter Antiques Fair. Offerings include Persian and oriental carpets starting at £150, as well as Art Nouveau and Arts and Crafts furniture at £25 to £5,000. The Californian dealer Michael St John has returned with his stock of English 19th-century watercolours. Prices in the hundreds and thousands.
Stowe Easter Antiques Fair, Stowe, Buckinghamshire (01277 362662).

HEREFORDSHIRE

The 1,200 lots offered in Russell Baldwin & Bright's sale on Wednesday and Thursday (April 19 and 20) includes a late Regency mahogany dining table (£8,000 to £12,000), while a composition figure of a 34lb salmon, caught in Scotland in 1905, is looking for a new owner at £500 to £800.
Russell Baldwin & Bright, Fine Art Saleroom, Ryelands Road, Leominster, Herefordshire (01568 611166).

HERTFORDSHIRE

On Tuesday (April 18), Old Harlequin Sales of Watford offer an attractive Victorian button-back nursing chair at £140 to £220, while a pair of 16-inch, 19th-century Japanese Satsuma vases are at £120 to £160.
Old Harlequin Sales, 26 to 28 Water Lane, Watford, Hertfordshire (01923 445545).

LINCOLNSHIRE

Richardsons of Bourne Auction Rooms has a wide variety of Corgi and Dinky toys today in their general sale, as well as Meccano sets surrendered by their original owners. Estimates range from "pocket money prices" to around £100.
Richardsons, Bourne Auction Rooms, Spalding Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire (01778 422686).



Sales of Meccano abound in London and Lincolnshire

LONDON

Entire cities can be built from the 1950s and 1960s Meccano offered at Bonhams in Chelsea on Thursday (April 20). One set, in a ten-drawer wooden storage unit, is valued at £200 to £300, while a 1960s Model of Tower Bridge is £200 to £300.
Bonhams Chelsea, 65 Lots Road, London SW10 (0171-393 3900).

MERSEYSIDE

On Tuesday (April 18), Outhwaite and Litherland of Liverpool have one of the largest baluster-form vases seen on the market for years by the cult British pottery maker Clarice Cliff (estimated at around £200). A rare early 19th-century brass propeller gauge reputed to have been used on the first iron ship — the *Great Britain* (estimated at up to £500).
Outhwaite & Litherland, Kingsway Galleries, Fontenoy Street, Liverpool (0151-236 6561).

MIDDLESEX

The largest Bank Holiday antiques and collectors fair in the London area is on Monday (April 17).
Wembley Exhibition Centre, Wembley Park, Hall 3 (01444 400570).

YORKSHIRE

From today until Monday, Doncaster Race Course is home to some 210 dealers, specialising mainly in small-scale furniture and antiques. Prices start at under £1.
Doncaster Racecourse, Leger Way, Doncaster (01302 320066).

SARAH-JANE CHECKLAND

Children's listings on page 15

Ruth Gledhill took part in a musical, Christian celebration at London's Albert Hall

AT YOUR SERVICE



The rapturous applause which greeted the voluntary 90-piece orchestra, the 140-strong choir in blue, green, yellow and red, and conductor Noël Tredinnick was enough to make any visitor question whether they had become dislocated in time and found themselves at a concert with the demi-God of rock, Eric Clapton, who had occupied the stage a few weeks earlier. But, despite the surging promenaders in a sea of red velvet who were screaming, blowing whistles and popping balloons, it only took a few seconds to make out the slogans on the banners, such as Enfield Baptist Church, to establish that this was not a secular rock or classical music event but one with a strong religious message.

Prom Praise, which ranks with the annual Greenbelt festival as one of the best-known events in the Christian entertainments calendar, began as a special event at All Souls, Langham Place, in 1977. It grew out of a wish to combine musical entertainment with Christian celebration. It is held annually in London, and travels during the year to venues throughout Britain. The orchestra was founded in 1972 when Professor Tredinnick gathered together a group of musicians who worshipped at All Souls to play for a carol service. The event has grown to the point where 5,000 people travel from churches throughout Britain to enjoy the enthusiastic but not triumphalist celebration, with Christianity rather than Britannia ruling the occasional stadium-style audience waves.

Given All Souls' possibly unfair reputation for "happy clappy" popular evangelical songs, the music at the Albert Hall was surprisingly but fittingly traditional. After the orchestra gave us Mozart's *Alleluia* and themes from the opera *Carmen*, our first hymn was an adaptation by the Right Rev Michael Baughen, Bishop of Chester, of Psalm 28, set to music by Beethoven. "Let the hills rejoice together, let the rivers clap their hands," we sang. Adaptations of Psalm 22 and Psalm 100, *Jubilate*, followed, before a thrilling recititative and an aria from Handel's *Messiah*. We heard soloist Heidi Pegler sing the beautiful Easter Hymn from *Cavalleria Rusticana* before launching into the all-time favourite, *Praise my soul the King of heaven*. But it will take me a lifetime to be able to sing without a twinge words such as "Glory in the highest to the God of heaven!" to Edward Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance. The rendition by two soloists of Graham Kendrick's evocative *Come and See* was proof that modern spiritual songs sound best with appropriate modern music.



AUDRE CAMARA

Enthusiastic promenaders join together in hymns and prayers

Towards the end of the solos and hymns, exhausting in the excellence they both demanded and offered, the Preb Richard Bewes, rector of All Souls, attempted to calm us with a meditative homily. "On the morning of August 27, 1883, the most stupendous explosion ever recorded took place," he said. "It was heard as far as 3,000 miles from its source." The volcano Krakatoa on Pulau island between Java and Sumatra had erupted.

Krakatoa was the closest he could come to a parallel with the "spiritual explosion" caused by Christ's resurrection, he said. It resulted in a "tidal wave of hope and confidence" which had not ceased across five continents.

"We cannot pretend that the message of Christ crucified and raised has swept ahead unopposed. From the very start, from Stephen the martyr onwards, it has spread in the teeth of hostility and through the indomitable courage of its many heroes." On behalf of the human race, Christ had beaten down death and "opened the gates of heaven". He said: "The tidal wave is still advancing since those breathless days of the first Easter Sunday." After more than two hours of singing and listening, I felt overcome only by a tidal wave of breathless tiredness. After two encores the Albert Hall's doors opened to let us all go home.

Prom Praise will be broadcast on Sunday April 16. Easter Day, on BBC Radio 2 at 7.30pm and on Sunday April 23 on BBC1's Songs of Praise at 6.25pm. Prom Praise will be back at the Albert Hall next year on March 16.

Prom Praise, Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7. Tel: 0171-935 7246 (Langham Arts).

HOST: The Rev Preb Richard Bewes, Rector of All Souls, Langham Place, the John Nash masterpiece in London, W1.

ARCHITECTURE: Vast and velvety oval dome, described in 1882, 11 years after it opened, as "a pile worthy of Rome in its palmiest days". ★★★★★

MUSIC: Stunning solos from soprano Heidi Pegler, bass Brindley Sherratt and Rachel Davies on a golden harp. But the most memorable was Alexandre Guilmant's Symphony in D minor with Gerard Brooks on the Albert Hall's extraordinary and massive organ. ★★★★★

SERMON: A brief "Pause for Thought" on the explosive impact of the Resurrection from Mr Bewes. ★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Vertiginous, especially from my perilous position at the front of Box 26. ★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Soft and alcoholic drinks served during the interval to all who were able to find their way through the labyrinthine hall to a bar. ★★

★ stars are awarded to a maximum of five.

Continued from page 1

dodoor, which means sluggard. While Van Neck sketched the bird — long-legged, round-bodied, and with a pointed beak — more like an ostrich than anything — his crew were interested only in how good it was to eat. As one Dutch captain, who followed Van Neck in 1602, put it: "These birds were called *walghvogels* because even a long boiling would scarcely make them tender, but they remained tough and hard ... from the abundance of turtle-doves which the men procured, they became disgusted with the dodos."

An Englishman, Sir Thomas Herbert, visited Mauritius in 1627 and leaves little doubt as to the palatability of the poor old dodo: "Her body is round and fat, few weigh less than 50lbs, are reputed of more for wonder than for food, greasie stomackes may seeke after them, but to the delicate they are offensive and of no nourishment."

On the other hand, because of their inability to fly, they were pitifully easy to catch.

However, Sir Thomas's physical description of the dodo is much closer to Savery's painting than to Van Neck's drawing: "Her visage darts forth melancholy, as sensible of Nature's injurie in framing so great a body to be guided with complimentall wings, so small and impotent, that they serve only to prove her bird. The halfe of her head is naked seeming covered with a fine valle, her bill is crooked downwards ... clothing downy feathers, her traine three small plumes, short and unproportionable, her legs suiting to her body, her pounces sharpe, her appetite strong and greedy."

Sir Thomas likens the dodo's eyes to small diamonds, while those on the Savery dodo are more like swollen gooseberries, and, in contrast to the image of a huge, fat and indolent bird, one Dutch sailor a few years later described the dodo as "serene and majestic".

So, what *did* the dodo actually look like?

Andrew Kitchener, of the Royal Museum of Scotland, was recently asked to produce a reconstruction of the dodo for an exhibition on nature conservation. He made the observation — having studied all of the depictions of the dodo that are known to exist — that the drawings made by people who had visited Mauritius in the early 17th century, most notably Van Neck, showed comparatively thin and agile birds, while those drawn and painted from the few live dodos that were transported to Europe, such as that by Savery, depicted the bird as the squat, fat and somewhat absurd figure that we have all come to accept.

It is thought that those birds which reached Holland and England were obese because of their confinement and captive diet, while dodos in the wild looked altogether different.

Dr Kitchener examined all the surviving remains of the dodo, most importantly the skull and foot in the University Museum, Oxford, and then investigated a pigeon and a turkey to find out how muscles hang off the bones in living birds. He then made a model in wire and Plasticine that showed the dodo as being graceful. This was not conclusive, however, because it is known that birds do lay down fat in parts of their bodies.

The next stage was to examine semi-fossilised leg bones and calculate how much weight they could carry. Dr Kitchener concluded that the fat, near-motionless birds in captivity could barely support their own weight, whereas the first wild dodos seen on Mauritius would have been very much as drawn and described by Van Neck.

Other puzzles that have engaged scholars and dodophiles down the centuries concern what a dodo actually is, why it was found only on Mauritius, and why it became extinct so soon after its discovery.

Early opinion classed the dodo as a sort of ostrich, reinforcing the new claims that it was a swift and leggy creature. This idea was fairly quickly discounted, and various other suggestions followed: an albatross, a plover, even a vulture.

Towards the mid-19th century, Professor Reinhardt of Copenhagen came up with the surprising conclusion that the dodo was a giant pigeon. This theory was met with scepticism, but in 1848 the seminal work *The Dodo and Kindred Birds* by Strickland and Melville, was published, Strickland agreeing with Reinhardt's theory.

Still the idea failed to gain currency: there was so much conjecture that many were now muttering about the bird being a myth, a total invention. But today the view is largely accepted: the dodo, so far as we know, was one big pigeon — which begs the question: if it was something so common as a pigeon, of which the world boasts billions, why should it have been unique to Mauritius?

Jane Pickering, the assistant curator of the zoological collections at Oxford University Museum, home of the only dodo skull and foot and the Savery painting, is a dedicated dodophile and says: "It is because Mauritius is a remote island. The Mascarenes had no mammals and were dominated by birds. As many islands split off from the mainland before mammals had evolved, or are volcanic in origin and were never attached at all, mammals — apart from bats — could never reach them. So the birds took over and evolved into all sorts of strange and colourful species, rather as in New Zealand, which has no native mammals.

"The dodo's ancestor must have flown to Mauritius millions of years ago as a pigeon. Because there were no predatory mammals, a lineage evolved where flight was gradually lost as body size increased and terrestrial habits developed. This, of course, resulted in a loss of defence against predators, which proved the dodo's downfall — but it must be remembered that dodos survived and flourished for millions of years before human intervention in its habitat."

So was it man who was directly responsible for the extinction of the dodo? "Indirectly," Ms Pickering says. "Dutch sailors did hunt the dodo, but as they all seemed clear that it didn't taste very good — and there were loads of other bird species — this cannot have made too much of an impact. I doubt, too, whether the sailors, or the later Dutch settlement, would have penetrated too deeply into the extremely dense forest.

"The settlement only ever numbered 300 people, but what really did for the dodo were the animals the settlers brought with them. Roaming dogs destroyed the adult birds, while monkeys, cats and rats sorted out the eggs and the chicks. Soon the island was overrun by animals and the dodo was gone."

The "Oxford Dodo", over which Ms Pickering presides with obvious pride, may now be just a skull (with skin and a few very fine feathers) and the skeleton of a foot, but once it was a fully fledged stuffed bird and, it is believed, not long before that a live dodo: fat, well and probably thoroughly miserable in 17th-century Lambeth, south London.

Sir Hamon Lestrange reported seeing the dodo in 1638, 36 years before the last sighting on Mauritius. The bird was kept in an upstairs room, where its keeper fed it pebbles "conducing to digestion". It was larger than the largest turkey, with a grotesque beak and wings that Lestrange described as "hanging like short sleeves".

It is thought that this bird, when dead, found its way into the Tradescant Collection in Lambeth, a weird and wonderful gathering of all sorts of artefacts: "four-footed beasts", "the shell creatures" and "outlandish fruits", and a stuffed "Dodar, from the island of Mauritius: it is not able to flie being so big".

John Tradescant, who formed the collection, was gardener to Charles I; he bequeathed everything to Elias Ashmole, who in turn donated it all, with his own collections, to the University of Oxford in 1683. This became the nucleus of the Old Ashmolean Museum in Broad Street, Oxford, the first public museum in Britain.

University opinion was divided: some felt that the collection was rather trivial and referred to the museum as the "Knickknackatory".

The Oxford Dodo was exhibited for 100 years, by which time it was in a fairly shocking state. In 1755, it was decided to remove the dodo from display and place it in a cupboard, unrestored. This seems rather cavalier, as it was the only one in existence. But, although we know that by 1755 the dodo was long extinct, even up to the early 19th century scientists remained convinced that more would be found on Mauritius.

The eventual fate of the Oxford Dodo has passed into legend as an example of the nadir of curatorial irresponsibility, if not wanton destruction.

Ms Pickering says: "The traditional belief is that the dodo, along with other decayed specimens, was chucked on to a fire. At the last moment, someone realised the folly of the action and pulled the head and the foot out of the flames to be saved for posterity. The truth, we now think, was not nearly so dramatic: it looks as if the head and foot were carefully set aside as the only parts worth saving; there is no evidence of a fire, of a last-minute rescue."

The vast, quite startling interior of the University Museum, built between 1855 and 1860, has superb vaulting and tracery soaring over natural history exhibits as diverse as the 15ft jawbone of a whale and, according to Ms Pickering, "thousands of drawers containing millions of insects".

The museum's conception was largely due to John Ruskin and Sir Henry Acland, both former pupils of the Dean of Christ Church, Henry Liddell. Acland was the Liddell family doctor and Ruskin was drawing master to one of Liddell's daughters, Alice, who had recently made the acquaintance of Charles Dodgson, a colleague of her father at Christ Church and a mathematics don. Together they would go to the museum and Dodgson, in his Lewis Carroll persona, would make up stories about all the animals, but most particularly the one he most identified with: the dodo.

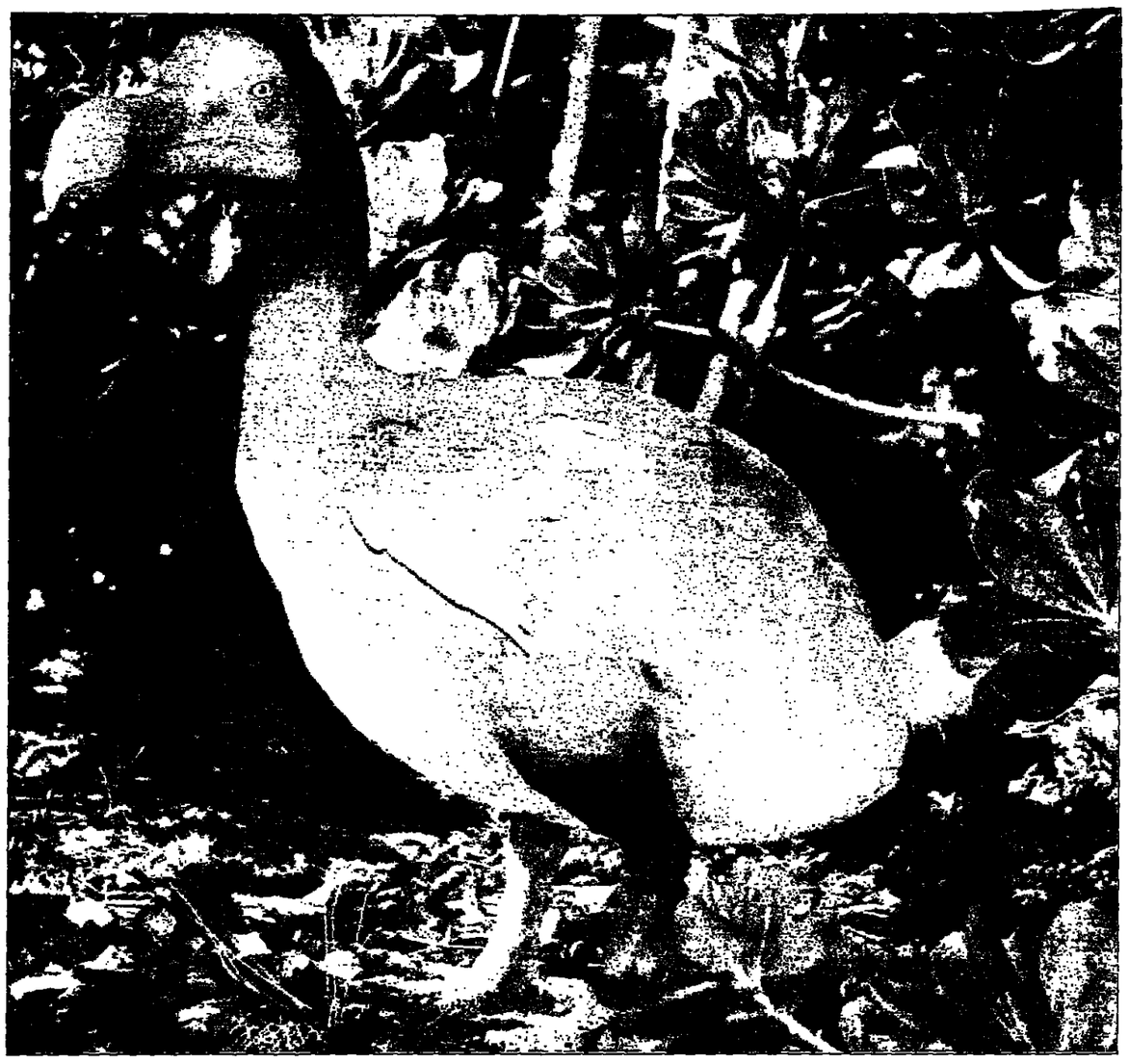
Alice, as we know, asked him to write all the stories down, and Dodgson agreed: a Wonderland without the dodo would be unthinkable.

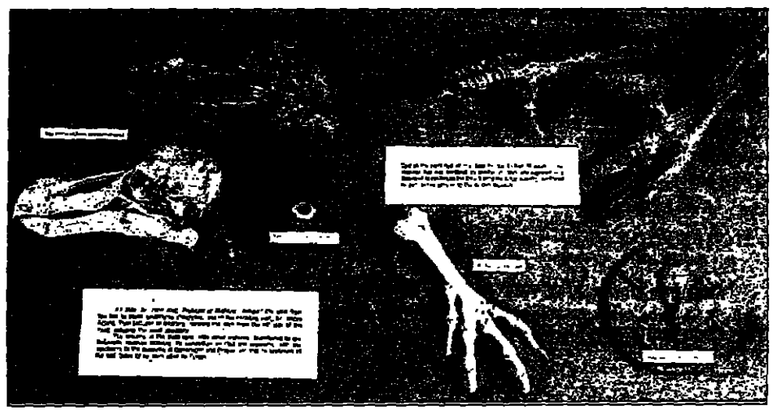
The Savery painting and the skull and the foot that inspired Lewis Carroll and Tenniel, continue to inspire thousands of visitors. "I don't know what it is about the dodo," Ms Pickering says, "but it seems to obsess people — and who knows, what with these new techniques, we might one day even see a live dodo".

Scientists can now extract molecules of the dodo's DNA from the withered skin and use them to read the story of its origins from all sorts of encoded messages. Anything along the lines of *Jurassic Park* is a distant dream, of course; but gosh, it is quite a dream, isn't it?

● *The Jan Savery painting and the head and foot of the dodo are permanently on view at the University Museum, Parks Road, Oxford (01865 272950), noon to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Free.*









A Tenniel drawing from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Top left: the first ever drawing of a dodo, made by the Dutch Admiral Jacob Cornelius Van Neck on the island of Mauritius in 1601. Though the flightless dodo was easy to catch, sailors said it tasted disgusting

Above: the dodo remodelled in wire and Plasticine by Dr Andrew Kitchener, of the Royal Museum of Scotland, and photographed in Mauritius

Left: all that remains of the last dodo — the skull and part of its stripped skin, the right foot and stripped skin, scierotic plates of the left eye, and a plaster cast of the foot — at the University Museum, Oxford

Cover picture of the Jan Savery dodo courtesy of the UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, OXFORD
Pictures at the top of this page courtesy of the ROYAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND
Display case with the remains of the dodo courtesy of the UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, OXFORD
Tenniel drawing from the MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY

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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Sat 15 Apr 7.30 — KENT COUNTY YOUTH ORCHESTRA Alan Vincent (cond) Borodin Polovtsian Dances; Mussorgsky/Ravel Pictures at an Exhibition; Prokofiev Alexander Nevsky £12.50, £11.50, £10.50, £9.50, £7.50, £5.50 *KCYO

Tue 18 Apr 7.30 — THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC Resident at the RFH. Gilbert & Sullivan Iolanthe (concert part) Roger Norrington, A Hagley, S Walker, S Bickley, E James, G Finley, R Stuart, N Jenkins, J Best. £13, £8, £5 (ONLY) *Lon Phil

Thu 20 Apr 7.30 — BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Yakov Kreizberg (cond) John Lill. Krenek Medea: Beethoven Pno Conc No.5 (Emperor); Debussy Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune; Stravinsky Rite of Spring. £24.50, £19.50, £14.50, £9.50, £6.50 *BO

Fri 21 Apr 7.30 — THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC Resident at the RFH. James Loughran (cond) Janice Watson (sop) Beethoven Overture. Conolan: Strauss Four Last Songs; Schubert Symphony No.9 (Great) £10, £5 *Lon Phil

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Sun 16 Mon 17 April — LONDON EASTER FLUTE FESTIVAL A two-day festival of concerts, recitals & workshops by leading British & international flute players. For detailed programme/ticket details ring 0181 882 2627. Foyers open at 9am, CEH 16 Apr 8.15: Music by Czech composer Dr Jindrich Feld; CEH 17 Apr 8.15: English Chamber Orchestra, I Brown (cond). Prog inc wks by Mozart, Cimarosa & Merradanta, Artists inc Jennifer Stinton, Susan Milan, William Bennett, J Ballot, G-L Petrucci. BFS

Fri 21 Apr 7.45 — MICHAEL NYMAN ON THE SOUTH BANK: The Chamber Music. The Camilli Quartet premiere Nyman's String Quartet No.4, and Sarah Leonard sings Anne de Lucy Songs and The Piano Sings – music from The Piano. £10 *SBC/Serious Speedout

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Saturday 15 April 7.30 pm — PETERSEN QUARTET Haydn: String Quartet in D Op.20 No.4; Schulhoff: String Quartet No.1 (1924); Beethoven: Quartet in A minor Op.132. Master Concert. Wigmore Hall. £12, £10, £8, £5

Sunday 16 April 11.30 am NB: starting time — PETERSEN QUARTET Mozart: String Quartet in G K387; Grieg: Quartet in G minor Op.27. Coffee Concert. Wigmore Hall. £7 including programme and coffee/refreshments

Tuesday 18 April 7.30 pm — DAVID CAMPBELL clarinet, ANDREW BALL piano. 200th Anniversary Concert. Hindemith: Sonata; Busoni: Elegie; Brahms: Sonata Op 120 No.1; Debussy: Première Rapsodie; Paul Harvey: 3 Etudes on themes by Gershwin; Poulenc: Sonata; Weber: 2 Hungarian Dances. £9.00, £7.50, £6.00, £4.50 in assoc with Metcap. Rush-Hour Concert

Wednesday 19 April 6.00 pm NB: starting time — MICHAEL CHANCE countertenor, NICHOLAS DANIEL oboe; JULIUS DRAKE piano. Bach: Kreuz und Krone from Cantata BWV 12; Purcell: Songs; Schumann: 3 Duos; Britten: Folksongs; Insect Pieces; David Matthews: A Complaint; Passions. All seats £7. Wigmore Hall/BBC Radio 3

Wednesday 19 April 8.00 pm NB: starting time — SINFONIA SOLOISTS - Principals of City of London Sinfonia. Hindemith: Kleine Kammermusik Op.24 No.2; Holloway: Serenade in E flat Op.57; Beethoven: Septet in E flat Op.20. £12, £10, £8, £6 Mgt: City of London Sinfonia (registered charity)

Thursday 20 April 7.30 pm — CAROLE CERASH harpsichord. Bach and the Italian Connection. Bach: Concerto in F BWV978 after Vivaldi; Ana wanda alla maniera italiana BWV989; Fugue on a Theme by Albinoni BWV951; Italian Concerto BWV971; Works by Frescobaldi and Scarlatti. £11, £9, £7, £5 Sponsored by GLC Limited

Friday 21 April 7.30 pm — MATHIEU PAPADIAMANDIS piano Schismenos: Five Variations Op. post. from Etudes symphoniques Op.13; Liszt: Etude d'exécution trascendente Wilde Jagd Après une lecture de Dante; Chasse; 4 Preludes; Schubert: Sonata in G D894. £9.00, £7.50, £6.00, £4.50 Sponsored by Fondation d'Entreprise Crédit National

Saturday 22 April 2.00 pm NB: starting time — KATHLEEN FERRIER AWARDS. Semi-Final of the 40th Competition for the Kathleen Ferrier Awards. All seats £5. Kathleen Ferrier Memorial Scholarship Fund. Master Concert

Saturday 22 April 7.30 pm — GYORGY PAUK violin, JENO JANDO piano. Beethoven: Sonata in D Op.12 No.1; Bartók: Sonata No.1 (1921); Beethoven: Sonata in A Op.47 'Kreutzer'. £12, £10, £8, £6 Wigmore Hall

WIGMORE HALL — TONIGHT at 7.30 pm
MASTER CONCERT
PETERSEN QUARTET
"Immaculate ensemble, flawless intonation, and total finesse ... the most searching and satisfying Beethoven I have heard for some time"
Gramophone March 1995
FOR PROGRAMME SEE WIGMORE HALL PANEL
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Itzhak Perlman
The Daily Telegraph

Saturday 10 June. 7.30pm (50th birthday)
BEETHOVEN Coriolan Overture
BEETHOVEN Two Romances
BEETHOVEN Violin Concerto
Tuesday 13 June. 7.30pm
BRAHMS Academic Festival Overture
MOZART Violin Concerto No.3 in G major
BRAHMS Violin Concerto
Thursday 15 June. 7.30pm
BERNSTEIN Candide Overture
BARBER Violin Concerto
TCHAIKOVSKY Violin Concerto
Saturday 17 June. 7.30pm
SIBELIUS Finlandia
SIBELIUS Violin Concerto
MENDELSSOHN The Hebrides Overture (Fingals Cave)
MENDELSSOHN Violin Concerto

Philharmonia Orchestra
Conductors: Lawrence Foster / June 10 & Yuri Levi
Special Offer - Book all four concerts for the price of three and receive a copy of Itzhak Perlman's latest EMI Classics release 'Bits and Pieces' - absolutely free'

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
BOX OFFICE: 0171 928 8800
Tickets: £48.00 £36.00 £28.00 £21.00 £12.00

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A new compact disc recording of the complete violin concertos of Beethoven, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Sibelius, Tchaikovsky and Bruch, recorded live at the Royal Festival Hall in June
The Daily Telegraph says: "Perlman's violin playing is of unsurpassed refinement and beauty"
Available on EMI Classics

RAYMOND GUBBAY *presents*
BARBICAN HALL
Box Office/CC 0171-638 8891

TONIGHT at 8 pm
in association with the BARBICAN CENTRE
MR. HANDEL COMES TO TOWN
A host of your favourites by the great George Frideric Handel, including Music for the Royal Fireworks, The Water Music, Zadok the Priest, Where'er you Walk (Semele), Sound an alarm & See the conqu'ring hero comes (Judas Maccabeus), The Harmonious Blacksmith, Let the Bright Seraphim (Samson), Hallelujah Chorus & Final Chorus (Messiah), Ombra Mai Fu (Largo), Had I Jubal's Lyre (Joshua) & Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
IAN WATSON conductor, CATHERINE BOTT soprano, JUSTIN LAVENDER ten, ENGLISH CHAMBER CHOIR
£8.50, £11.50, £16.50, £18.50, £21

TOMORROW at 7.30 pm
in association with the BARBICAN CENTRE
BACH ~ MAGNIFICAT MOZART ~ REQUIEM
Two choral masterpieces in one evening: Bach's elegant & moving Magnificat plus Mozart's powerful Requiem, which provided the unforgettable music score for the award-winning film 'Amadeus'.
CITY OF LONDON SINFONIA, HARRY CHRISTOPHERS
ROSA MANNION, SALLY BURGESS, RICARD BORDAS, JOHN GRAHAM HALL, MATTHEW BEST, BOLST SINGERS
£9.50, £13.50, £17.50, £19.50, £22.50

SATURDAY 29 APRIL at 8 pm
PUCCINI GALA CONCERT
Some of the greatest moments from the incomparable operas of Giacomo Puccini
Madama Butterfly, Manon Lescaut, Gianni Schicchi, La Bohème, La Fanciulla del West, Tosca, Turandot – Including Nessun Dorma
CHRISTINE TEARE, CLARE BUTTER sopranos, JULIAN GAVIN, ADRIAN MARTIN tenors
LONDON CHORAL SOCIETY
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
PAUL WYNNE GRIFFITHS cond
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SUNDAY 14 MAY at 7.30 pm
GERSHWIN CLASSICS
A tribute to one of America's greatest popular composers inc:
Strike Up The Band Overture
An American in Paris, Rhapsody in Blue
Crazy For You Concert Suite
Porgy & Bess Symphonic Picture
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA, DAVID ARNOLD cond
PHILIP FOWKE piano
£9.50, £13.50, £17.50, £19.50, £22.50

Rite of Spring
In the presence of HRH Princess Alexandra
the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is delighted to introduce to London concert-goers its new principal conductor, Yakov Kreizberg.
Royal Festival Hall
Thursday 20 April, 7.30pm
Krenek Medea
Beethoven Piano Concerto No.5 *Emperor*
Debussy Prélude à l'Après-midi d'un Faune
Stravinsky The Rite of Spring
Yakov Kreizberg conductor
John Lill piano
£8.50, £9.50, £14.50, £19.50, £24.50
Box Office 0171 928 8800
In association with CLASSIC fm

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ROYAL ALBERT HALL — SUNDAY 30 APRIL 7PM
in the presence of HRH Princess Alexandra
WALTON - TE DEUM
BRUCH - CONCERTO FOR VIOLIN No.1 IN G, OP.26
VERDI REQUIEM
ANDREW DAVIS *Conductor*
BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & MASSED CHOIRS OF 600 VOICES
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A NIGHT IN VIENNA
A glorious evening of Viennese music with waltzes, polkas, favourite songs & duets from operettas by Strauss & Lehar
NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA *Cond* MARTIN YATES
Soprano KATE FLOWERS *Tenor* ANTHONY MEE
Ov. Poet and Peasant, Pizzicato Polka, Skaters' Waltz, Girls were made to love & kiss, Anvil Polka, Don't be cross, Egyptian March, Gypsy Baron Duet, Blue Danube, Emperor Waltz, Dritsch-tratsch Polka, Cuckoo Polka, You are my heart's delight, Voices of Spring, Vilja & Waltz Duet The Merry Widow, Radetzky March, Countess Maritza, Thunder & Lightning Polka
£10 £13.50 £16.50 £20 £25 — 0171 638 8891

BARBICAN HALL
0171-638 8891 9AM–8PM DAILY

Tonight 15 April 8.00pm — MR HANDEL COMES TO TOWN London Concert Orchestra Ian Watson cond./harpsichord, Catherine Bott, Justin Lavender soloists, English Chamber Choir. Prog.inc. Fireworks Music, Water Music, Zadok the Priest, Excerpts from Samson, Semele, Messiah etc. £8.50 £11.50 £16.50 £18.50 £21 *Barbican Centre*

Tomorr Easter Sun 16 April 7.30pm — BACH MAGNIFICAT & MOZART REQUIEM, City of London Sinfonia, Harry Christophers cond., Rosa Mannion, Sally Burgess, Ricard Bordas, John Graham Hall, Matthew Best soloists, The Holst Singers. £9.50 £13.50 £17.50 £19.50 £22.50 *Barbican Centre*

Easter Mon 17 April 7.30pm — ALTAN AND THE KATHRYN TICKELL TRIO, Evolving Tradition. Rare London appearance featuring Mairead Ni Mhaonaigh performing in Gaelic & English. £5.50 £9.50 *Barbican Centre*

Wed 19 April 7.30pm — NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN Louis Fremaux cond. Berlioz Ov., Les Francs Juges Hindemith Mahler der Maler: Symphony Shostakovich Symphony No.12 'The Year 1917' £4 £7 £10 £13 £17 £22.50 *LSO Ltd.*
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Fri 21 April 6.30pm — TALKING MUSIC BBC Symphony Orchestra & Tom Robinson Ensemble, Martyn Brabbins cond., Oliver Knussen cond./ John Constable piano, Phillip Langridge tenor : Robin Holloway 'Fantasy-Pieces' Incorporating: Schumann Liederkreis' Op.24; Domestication of Black' All Seats £10, Concessions *BBCSO1*

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER *presents at the* BARBICAN
SUNDAY 30 APRIL at 7.30
GRAND CLASSICAL GALA
National Symphony Orchestra
Cond: Martin Merry *Tenor:* Anthony Mee
London Concert Choir
Fanfare Trumpeters of the Life Guards
Excerpts from
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FAUST · CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA
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7th OLDHAM Queen Elizabeth Hall 0161 911 4022
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10th CROYDON Fairfield Hall 0181 688 9291
11th LOWESTOFT Marina Theatre 01502 573333
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13th BRISTOL Colston Hall 0117 922 3686
14th NORTHAMPTON 01604 26311 Derngate
15th RHYL Pavilion Theatre 01745 330000
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17th HALIFAX Victoria Theatre 01422 351158
19th EASTBOURNE Congress Theatre 01323 412000
20th BOURNEMOUTH Pavilion 01202 297297
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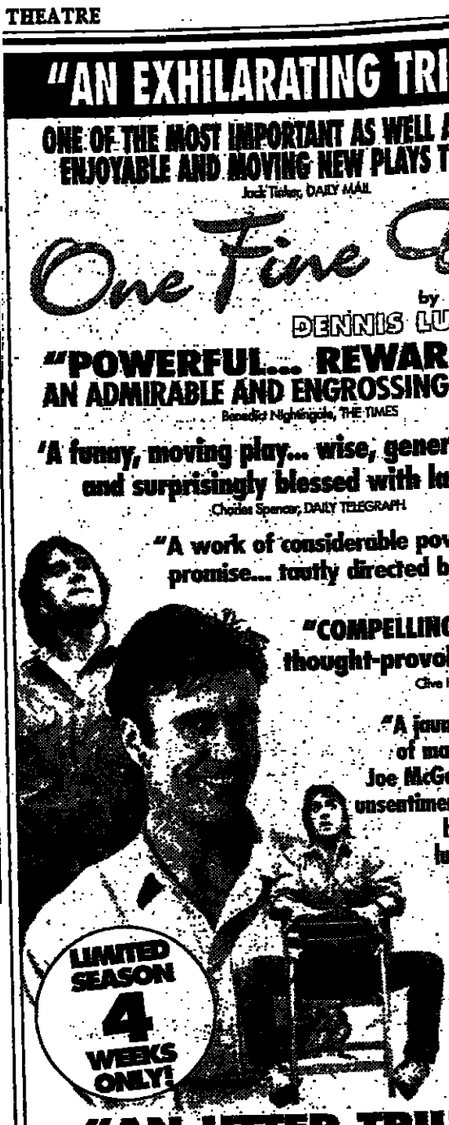
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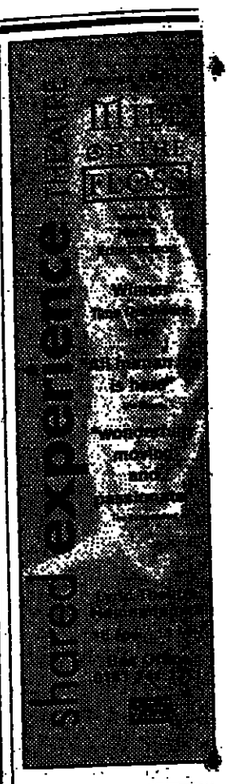
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DARREN DAY
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COPACABANA
"The Entire Audience was on it's feet" Eves 8pm. Mats Wed & Sat 5pm.
Group discounts available
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BARBICAN: TWELFTH NIGHT
Today 2.00 & 7.15
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RST: THE TAMING OF THE SHREW Tom't 7.30
SWAN: THE RELAPSE Tom't 7.30



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GORDEN KAYE, RUE McCLANAHAN
HARVEY
by MARY CHASE
Dir by CLIFFORD WILLIAMS
Prevs 16/17 May Opens 18 May
FOR A LIMITED SEASON

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"UNFORGETTABLY POWERFUL" Ind.
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Evgs 7.45 Sats 5.0, 8.15 Mats Wed 3.0

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KILLER JOE
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The Royal Ballet
Tom'r 2.00 & 7.00, Thur 7.30 (Last Night)
ROMEO AND JULIET
Mon 7.30 STRAVINSKY STAGED

THEATRES

ADELPHI
"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Wall St Journal
SUNSET BOULEVARD
Starring
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Luvvies and politics don't mix well

WEEK IN THE ARTS



RICHARD MORRISON

The luvvies, we are told, are disenchanted with Tony Blair's New Model Labour Party, and vice versa. The arty folk have finally twigged — a mere six months or so after everybody else — that Mr Blair is about as likely to embrace socialism as Jonathan Aitken is to cuddle the editor of *The Guardian*. And it is said that Mr Blair is not sorry about the split. He feels that his image might be best served now by earnest breakfasts with ball-bearing magnates and captains of the waste-disposal industry. Champagne suppers with DJs he does not need.

Meanwhile, in the French presidential election the most unlikely celebrities are coming out in favour of Jacques Chirac. This must surprise M Chirac, who is to culture what Jeremy Beadle is to sophistication. Perhaps his timely pledge to increase arts subsidy to approximately ten times what it is in Britain has something to do with his sudden popularity among the thespian classes.

What I cannot understand is why politicians feel it necessary to woo the luvvies at all. Perhaps they are star-struck. After all, a lifetime of gazing at John Selwyn Gummer across the dispatch box will hardly prepare you adequately for the thrill of your first encounter with Felicity Kendal.

But are voters swayed by such blatantly concocted alliances? Do people really go round saying "gosh, if Basil Brush supports Labour then that's the party for me"? If so, they are daft. The fact is that showbiz folk have an alarming tendency to smuggle up to the most appalling murderers, dictators and general all-round monsters. Indeed, a recommendation from any showbiz star that Mr X is a good egg should probably be taken as evidence that Mr X is not to be trusted with a 25p postal order, let alone high office.

Think back in history. Arty types queued up to pay homage in the Medicis' Florence, in Stalin's Russia, even in the Krays' East End. Look at the wonderful photographs in Charlie Kray's seminal memoir, *Doing the Business*. Here is Judy Garland with her arm round Reg; Shirley Bassey sharing a drink with Ron; Barbara Windsor, Tony Bennett, Barbra Streisand ... If Reg and Ron had stood for Parliament in the early 1960s, they would have been overwhelmed by endorsements.

What we are dealing with here is naivety. Showbiz celebs who are hard-nosed enough when it comes to screwing the last penny out of their record companies suddenly come over all dewy-eyed when talking about "ishews". They honestly think that if they spout their soppy idealism long enough they can change the world.

The most gob-smacking instance of this kind of self-delusion I have ever encountered came not from some upstart pop singer, but from that delightful tunesmith, Marvin Hamlisch, the thrice-Oscar-winning composer of *A Chorus Line*. We were talking about Hollywood and Broadway, and Marv's anecdotes — sardonic and funny — flew like wild geese. But then the conversation turned to a serious orchestral work he had written, *The Anatomy of Peace*.

All at once, his face acquired a mystic glow. "In the middle of composing that piece," he confided in a hushed tone, "the Berlin Wall comes down. Then, when the piece gets premiered, the Soviet Union dissolves. And *then*, one week before its New York premiere, Arafat is walking on the lawn of the White House! So I'm thinking to myself: this piece takes on more resonance on a daily basis." Yes, Marv sincerely believed that his music was saving the world.

Still, a luvvie with a mission for mankind is probably marginally less troublesome than the mirror image: a politician who believes he has "artistic talent". I don't want to intrude again on the private grief of the Clinton saxophone technique or the Heath conducting style. But a veteran RAF officer did once tell me about a bizarre occasion, 50 years ago, which seems to epitomise the absurdity of trying to mix art and politics.

It was at the Potsdam Conference in July 1945, where the Allied leaders had gathered to carve up Europe. One day, the Central Band of the RAF, which was stationed in nearby Berlin (and packed with the cream of Britain's orchestras, conscripted for the duration), was ordered to Potsdam. Comrade Molotov (then Stalin's foreign minister) and President Truman — both amateur pianists — had expressed a desire to make sweet music together. An easy passage from the Mozart Two-Piano Concerto was selected, and the RAF bandsmen were told to accompany the statesmen.

You may imagine the British musicians' alarm. One wrong entry, they thought — one discord, one slight contretemps over the correct speed — and all hell would break loose. If Molotov thought that Truman was milking the *appoggiaturas*, or if Truman felt that Molotov was overdoing the cadenza, then the delicate rapport between East and West would be shattered, and the Russians and Americans would return home and begin preparations to blow each other off the face of the earth.

Perspiration dripped from every brow. Fingers trembled on instruments. Finally the last chord was reached. Molotov and Truman congratulated each other on their mutual virtuosity. Everybody agreed that the performance had been a glorious symbol of a new global fraternity and friendship. And then the Russians and Americans returned home and began preparations to blow each other off the face of the earth.

THEATRE: A staging of Dylan Thomas's radio play leaves **Benedict Nightingale** doubting the work's quality

Wireless turned pointless

Under Milk Wood
Olivier

With a simplicity and clarity unusual for him, Dylan Thomas called his *Under Milk Wood* "a play for voices". At the National it is also a play for 23 adult human bodies, 11 children, more than 50 costumes, three musicians, a model Welsh village, a frilly sun, and numerous objects dangling above the stage. Whether so fulsome a transition from radio to one of London's largest stages gives us a richer evening is another matter.

Part of the trouble is that Roger Michell and his designer, William Dudley, seem unsure about how best to embody a piece that is part dream, part memory, part comic observation, part voluptuous fantasy. They begin with a reminder of its origins in the form of a gigantic old wireless, which sits centre-stage while Nicholas McGaughey, playing First Voice in a trendy blue suit, opines and orates from behind it. Later, the characters gather round an equally ancient mike. But these are passing gestures only, and do little for the evening as a whole.

The flying furniture achieves scarcely more. As Voice One babbles about the slow, black, crowblack, fisherboat-bobbing sea, down from the flies come cots and beds complete with sleepers. With ghosts rising from traps in the floor, and Voices One and Two doing their Peter Pan bit, I began to develop a bad case of vicarious vertigo. Would all these near-misses in mid-air result in tangled wires and disaster? As it turned out, no. But a pig, a clock, a fishbone and many other items never made it back to a ground that is itself intermittently sprinkled with toy cottages. The overall impression was less of magic, more of a sort of indecisive cuteness.

But to say that it is sometimes difficult to give Thomas's prose our full attention, and to add that the play is best staged on whatever sets we improvise in our individual imaginations, is to beg a large question. Is *Under Milk Wood* worth reviving in any medium? When his more bloated bombast thickens to bursting-point, I do find myself wondering. So do I when he waxes sentimental about booze and sex. The lowest point is surely when Mrs Cherry Owen (Ruth Jones) assures Cherry Owen (Mark Lewis Jones, complete with trademark Dylan hair and bags) that she is entranced by his drunkenness. Here the two don't end up "laughing delightedly" at the memory of his last binge, as Thomas wanted; but his self-serving fantasies are still pretty sickening.

Still, his hatred of the nosy, prissy and judgmental — the reason, maybe, this village is called Llareggub, or Buggerall backwards — does produce some funny moments and lively acting. Alan David's Pugh, dressed like his role-model, Crippen, is a particular success. Nerys Hughes's Mrs Ogmore-Pritchard, telling the sun to wipe its boots before it enters her hyper-clean house and ordering the ghosts of her dead husbands to "put your pyjamas in the drawer marked pyjamas" lifts the temperature too. I could happily have borne more of Derek Hutchinson's otter-slaughtering butcher, Wayne Cater's No-Good Boyo, and Anthony O'Donnell's lonely, melancholy Captain Cat.

Actually, I found myself not just appreciating the old tar but envying him. The point about Cat is that he is blind and therefore hypernaturally sensitive to sound. He sees without seeing. After two hours at the National, I felt his way of experiencing *Under Milk Wood* was the right one.

DONALD COOPER



Mark Lewis Jones as Willy Nilly and Shirley King as Mrs Willy Nilly in the National's new *Under Milk Wood*

FESTIVAL: **Gerald Larner** enjoys some early sun and music in Lucerne

A passionate Swiss role

Three years of Lucerne Easter Festivals have proved that Easter in Lucerne is not, in fact, the best time and place for a festival. The weather round Lake Lucerne is uncertain, the Swiss tend to take their Easter holidays elsewhere, and the tourists have not arrived.

So Matthias Bamert, artistic director of both the spring and summer festivals, took the risky decision to present the Easter event a week earlier this year. By timing the festival to end on Palm Sunday, he could at least preserve its Easter associations and retain the relevance of the concerts in the Jesuitenkirche, a remarkably handsome and congenial setting for religious music.

He has been lucky, not merely in increasing attendance by ten per cent and sponsorship by an equivalent amount but in the weather, which turned from warm and sunny to cold and grey the moment the festival was over.

As far as the music was concerned, fortunes were mixed. The opening concert in the Jesuitenkirche, where Philippe Herreweghe conducted the Orchestre de la Chapelle Royale and the Collegium Vocale Ghent in Bach cantatas, was nearer to heaven than the summit of Mount Pilatus. Cantata No 198, an inspired setting of a pathetic text by Johann Christoph Gottsched (*Lass, Fürstin, lass noch einen Strahl*), was so beautifully phrased and so sensitively coloured that its first movement had to be encored: for a defiantly Protestant cantata in this centre of Swiss Catholicism, that was a considerable achievement.

With Jordi Savall, La Capella Reial de Cataluña and Hespèrion XX inviting devotion in the other church concerts, anxieties were confined to what was going on in the concert hall where, according to a four-year tradition, a leading American orchestra was in residence. After the third encore of its third concert, this Easter's featured orchestra received a prolonged standing ovation. Even so, the Detroit Symphony was probably not heard at its best.

The problem was that Neeme Järvi, who has transformed the orchestra into an international ensemble in the four years he has been there, was recovering from flu and unable to rehearse. Tricky though this must have been even for an orchestra which has had to learn to live dangerously, for two of the soloists — Jard van Nes in Mahler's Rückert-Lieder and Michel Dalberto in Grieg's Piano Concerto — it was almost impossible.

It was particularly pleasing to hear the suave Detroit woodwind and, though the rest of the strings are not so impressively together, its distinctive cello section. The best of all the orchestra's qualities are its quick reactions and its stylistic flexibility in whatever area of the repertoire Järvi chooses to alight on. If the encore routine seemed rather better worked out than the interpretation of the last movement of Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony, a little showmanship does no harm.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

DANNY MOAR



Profession: Moar became general manager of Blackpool's Grand Theatre last October. "I believe, at 30, that I am the youngest theatre manager in the country."

The Grand? The 100-year-old theatre is considered to be Frank "Coliseum" Matcham's masterpiece. "We don't just take number-one touring products," says Moar. "We take smaller-scale work too, which we are able to do because of the Grand's intimate design."

What has Moar added? Théâtre de Complicité have paid their first visit. Cheek By Jowl are coming. The line-up is impressive, including Mark Morris. A recent Arts Council grant will support more contemporary dance. Moar is also considering producing and commissioning work.

General manager means what exactly? "Persuading companies I admire to trek to Blackpool. Also managing the organisation, especially the finances. We receive only about 5 per cent public funding, so we need to be careful. I'm effectively the chief executive of a medium-size business."

What was Moar before? Sponsorship manager at the South Bank. Next marketing director at Salisbury Playhouse then Sadler's Wells. "My task was to maximise income, working with the artistic producer. Through that I got close to the programming." His first job, after reading English at Cambridge, was as an account executive in advertising.

What did advertising teach you? "I learnt more in advertising than at any other point in my life. It showed that the most effective marketing is product-led. So, if you want a particular audience, it's important to understand what that audience wants. A certain type is regarded as disenfranchised from the arts. During the Grand's summer variety show, we get 150,000 of these. They sit happily next to those who come to see Mark Morris. There isn't that London paranoia about classifying art as high or low. It's just an evening out at the Grand."

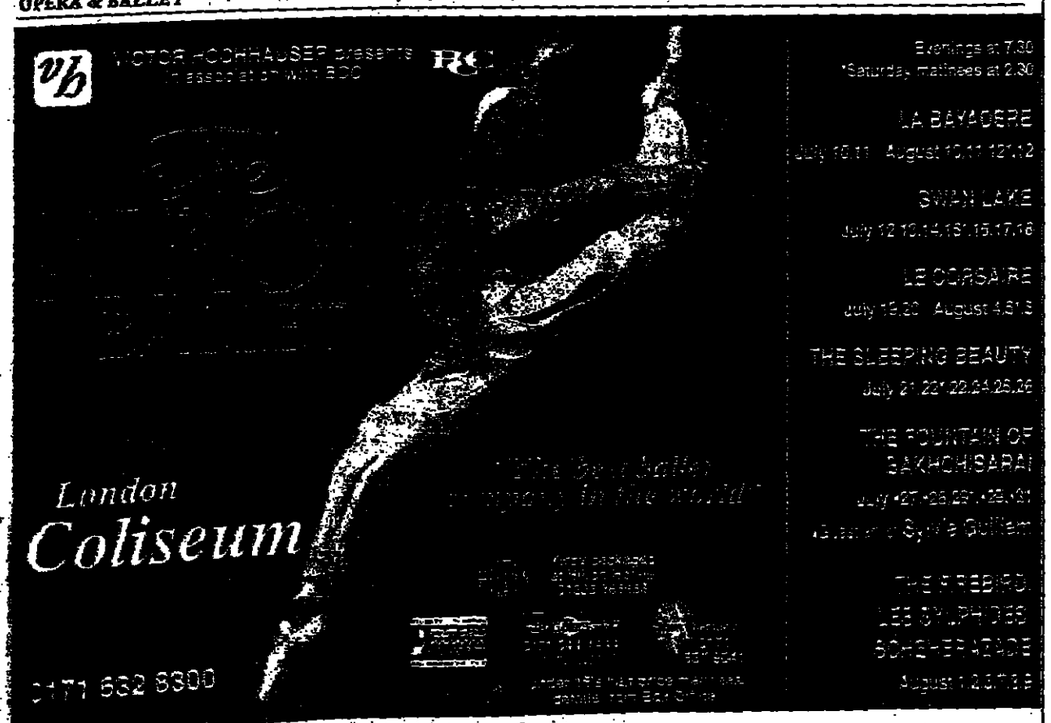
Did advertising make you good at marketing yourself? "As a leader of any organisation you must project an image of yourself which is then associated with the organisation."

What is that image? "A person — and organisation — enthusiastic about the best work, of whatever sort. One is not frightened of doing different things."

KATE BASSETT

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OPERA & BALLET



FRINGE

Life within walls

Another Nine Months
New End, Hampstead

CLEAN Break Theatre Company, founded by two women prisoners, is dedicated to expanding the skills of offenders and to educating the public. *Kate Bassett writes. Another Nine Months*, written by playwright Louise Page, after research at the Mother and Baby Units in Holloway and Styal prisons, does achieve these aims.

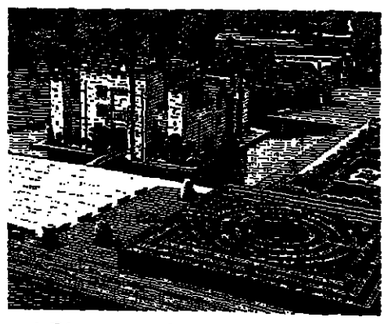
Three actresses, who have been through the justice system, play a multitude of parts with commendable proficiency and flashes of humour. Yontic Blackwood gives a warm, well-observed performance as Mel, imprisoned for carrying her boyfriend's drugs. She lovingly brings up her baby in the unit until the permitted number of months are up, then hands him over and becomes distant in order to cope. Blackwood also plays a screw, subtly swaggering, fingering her keys with a smile in her eyes.

Jinny Keatinge switches from a nosey-but-nice, plummy prison librarian to Helen, a sweetly subnormal, but worryingly careless, mother who would not be allowed to keep her child on the outside.

Page's play is sympathetic to, but not uncritical of, her characters. It shows their existence in the units, from a baby being searched to the pain of enforced fostering. However, it lacks forward-drive. One minute a fire has broken out, the next we've cut to an encounter with a cat. The characters are confusing and sketchy. Page seems to have collected real-life accounts without compacting them into focused fiction.

Designer Annabel Lee's grey screens are embossed with brick walls which recede into the distance, an image which gives the feeling of imprisonment. Yet they also confound as the action leaps about freely within and beyond the prison setting.

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WEST END ENTERTAINMENT

☐ **AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'** Edwardian song 'n' dance show created from the hits of Fats Waller. Non-stop energy on feet.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

◪ **BROKEN GLASS** Arthur Miller's masterly drama, distilling his lifelong concern with personal responsibility. David Thacker's production, with Henry Goodman and Margot Leicester superb as the central Jewish couple.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ◪

☐ **CONVERSATIONS WITH MY FATHER** Judd Hirsch re-creates his Tony Award-winning performance in Herb Gardner's play, covering 40 years of Jewish experience in New York, from an old man's standpoint. Harry Rabinowitz directs.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm ◪

☐ **DANGEROUS CORNER** Keith Baxter directs an excellent cast in Priestley's psychological thriller about the open areas in people's lives it is inside a living room into.
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1735) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

◪ **IF WE ARE WOMEN** Richard Crane directs Joan Plowright and Diana Rigg in a play by Jonathan Joanna McClelland Glass, three generations of women coming together after a death and dealing with their past.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until Apr 29 ◪

☐ **IN PRAISE OF LOVE** Peter Bowles and Lisa Harrow in Fatigan drama about travel, facing death, interesting, if not totally inciting, as it shows the effects, ill and good, of emotional upheaval.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

◪ **INDIAN INK** Felicity Kendal, Art Malik and Maryam Tyzack in Tom Stoppard's latest, witty, poignant, superficial glimpses of Anglo-Indian research visits and respect. Peter Wood directs.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **THE LIBERATION OF SKOPJE** Wanda Ventham and Rude Serbedzija in epic play about the Resistance in

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
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1940s Macedonia. Opening of Moving Theatre's season commemorating World War Two.
Riverside Studio 1, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2255) *Now previewing*, 7.30pm, opens April 18. ◪

☐ **THE LIVE BED SHOW** Arthur Smith's revised version of his 1992 Edinburgh Festival comedy. Caroline Quentin and Paul Merton play a couple *on their journey towards sharing a bed*.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri and Sat, 6.30pm and 8.45pm

☐ **THE LOVERS.** Goldoni's *Gli Innamorati*, light-weight but played in exuberantly comic style.
Gate 11 Pembridge Rd, W11 (0171-229 0706) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm

◪ **THE MEMORANDUM** Revival of President Havel's surreal comedy about office intrigue and a weird new language, supposedly designed to improve efficiency. Dating from 1965 and given its British premiere here in 1977.
Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-940 3633) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Until Apr 29. ◪

◪ **OUR BOYS** Jonathan Lewis's searching drama set in a military hospital where the soldiers start questioning the army's commitment to them. Nikki Turner directs. First seen at Derby.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-339 1732) Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm. No perf Apr 17. Until May 13 ◪

☐ **SIMPATICO** Ciaran Hinds, Sean McGinley, Janet McTeer and Tony Haygarth in Sam Shepard's first play for a decade. A shared secret from long ago connects two men now living very different lives. James Macdonald directs.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3.30pm. Until May 13

◪ ***TRAINSPOTTING*** *The brutal underside of Edinburgh life, adapted from Mary Graham's novel. Vivid performances of a vile way of life.*
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388) Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until May 6

☐ **TWELFTH NIGHT** Ian Judge's delightful production from last year's Stratford. With Desmond Barrit as Malvolio and Emma Fielding as Viola, both irresistible.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Today, 2pm and 7.15pm, then in rep with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* from Apr 20. ◪

☐ **UP'N'UNDER** John Godber's rugby play, done by Hull Truck. Enthusiastic 'n' simple. Leave your brains in the changing room.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 5pm and Sat, 5pm. ◪

☐ **A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE** David Thacker's production, acclaimed in Bristol and Birmingham. Bernard Hill superb as the NY longshoreman consumed by unspeakable love for his niece.
Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) Tue-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, 2pm; Sat and Sun, 3pm.

☐ **THE YIDDISH TROJAN WOMEN.** Quick re-appearance for Carole Braverman's rich play on the demands and dangers of self-deceit. Fine playing by the four women, led by Mona Charles, as a memory-torn matriarch, and terrific performance by Ronan Vibert as a horny baker. Recommended.
Cockpit, Gateforth Street, NW8 (0171-402 5081). Tue-Sun, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Until Apr 23 ◪

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Arcadia**: Haymarket (0171-930 8800) . . ◪ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-867 1044) . . ◪ **Buddy**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . . ◪ **Copacabana**: Prince of Wales (0171-839 5972) . . ◪ **Crazy for You**: Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) . . ◪ **Don't Dress for Dinner**: Duchess (0171-494 5070) . . ■ **Grease**: Dominion (0171-416 6060) . . ☐ **Mama I Want to Sing**: Cambridge (0171-494 5080) . . ☐ **My Night With Reg**: Criterion (0171-839 4488) . . ☐ **Only the Lonely**: Piccadilly (0171-369 1734) . . ◪ **A Passionate Woman** Comedy (0171-369 1731) . . . ☐ **She Loves Me**: Savoy (0171-836 8888) . . ■ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) . . . ■ **Three Tall Women**: Wyndhams, until Apr 22 (0171-369 1736) ☐ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

NEW RELEASES

◆ *THE LITTLE RASCALS (U). Tame* adventures of irrepressible imps, based on the Our Gang shorts. Penelope Spheeris directs a difficult child cast.
MGMs: Fulham Road ◪ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0900 88999-1) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

MURIEL'S WEDDING (15): Ugly duckling becomes swan. Boisterous, sweary Aussie comedy. P.J. Hogan directs Toni Collette, Bill Hunter and Rachel Griffiths.
Barbican ◪ (0171-638 8891) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Renoir** (0171-636 0707) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **St. Leonard's/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

ONCE WERE WARRIORS *(18). See Critics' Choice, page 2.*

POETIC JUSTICE (15): Overambitious romantic odyssey from Russ Mayer director John Singleton, with Janet Jackson and Tupac Shakur.
MGM Trocadero ◪ (0171-434 0031)

CURRENT

◆ ***ANDRE*** *Adventures of an orphaned seal. Well-packaged tame, film with* [illegible] Tina Majorino and a scene-stealing sea lion.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666), **Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Warner** ◪ Mon-Sun (0171-437 4343)

◆ **DISCLOSURE** (18): Michael Douglas fights back to Demi Moore. Superficial, enjoyable version of Michael Crichton's sexual harassment novel. Barry Levinson.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **DUMB & DUMBER** (12): Idiot's road-movie comedy that outstrips its forebears with Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels. Director: Peter Farrelly.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

HOOP DREAMS (15): Marvellous documentary by Steve James. Fred Marx and Peter Gilbert on two inner-city kids and their dreams of playing professional basketball.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGM Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279)

IMMORTAL BELOVED (15): Gary Oldman is Beethoven, but the film still ends up worthy and dull. With Jeroen Krabbe and Isabella Rossellini; writer-director, Bernard Rose.
Empire (0800 888911)

◆ **JUST CAUSE** (18): Harvard Professor Sean Connery wrestles with a murder case in Florida. Ludicrous investigative thriller, with Laurence Fishburne. Director, Arne Glimcher.
MGMs: Fulham Road ◪ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

LEON (18): Precious child shelters under a hitman's wing. Sleek, empty thriller shot in New York by French director Luc Besson. With Jean Reno, Natalie Portman and Gary Oldman.
Empire (0800 888911) **Odeon Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683)

LITTLE BIG LEAGUE (PG): A 12-year-old manages a baseball team. Dull, insanely long comedy. With Luke Edwards and Timothy Busfield. Director, Andrew Scheinman.
MGM Trocadero ◪ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **LITTLE WOMEN** (U): Fresh, tender, feminist version of the 19th-century classic, with Winona Ryder, Susan Sarandon, and Gabriel Byrne. Director, Gillian Armstrong.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-636 6279) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE (PG): Nigel Hawthorne reigns supreme as Alan Bennett's tormented monarch. A fine film transfer by stage director Nicholas Hytner, with Helen Mirren and Ian Holm.
Barbican ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Gate** ◪ (0171-727 4043) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **MGMs: Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Screen/Hill** ◪ (0171-435 3366) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

MRS. PARKER AND THE VICIOUS CIRCLE (15): Alan Rudolph's melancholy and witty portrait of Dorothy Parker and her era. Compelling performances from Jennifer Jason Leigh and a well-chosen cast.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

NELL (12): Doctor Liam Neeson nurtures backwoods wild child Jodie Foster. *Well acted, well meant, but* glutinous. Director, Michael Apted.
MGM Trocadero ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683)

◆ **NOBODY'S FOOL** (15): Endearing slice of small-town Americana, with Paul Newman, Melanie Griffith, Bruce Willis and Jessica Tandy. Writer-director, Robert Benton.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (*01426 915 574*) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **ONE HUNDRED AND ONE DALMATIANS** (U): Disney's pleasant, witty cartoon version of Dodie Smith's book about endangered puppies, first released in 1961.
Barbican ◪ (0171-638 8891) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **PULP FICTION** (18): Quentin Tarantino's flamboyant crime epic weaves together three tales from the LA underworld. With John Travolta, Bruce Willis and Samuel L. Jackson.
Clapham Picture House, Sun only (0171-498 3323) **Gate** ◪ (0171-727 4043) **MGM Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **QUIZ SHOW** (15): Director Robert Redford resurrects a TV scandal of the late 1950s. Fine performances (John Turturro, Ralph Fiennes, Paul Scofield), but not enough bite, or relevance.
Odeon Swiss Cottage (01426 914098) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

LA REINE MARGOT (18): Bloody, brooding, occasionally impressive French history lesson, with Isabelle Adjani and Daniel Auteuil.
MGM Panton Street (0171-930 0631)

◆ **THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION**: How to survive long decades in prison. Engrossing drama with Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman. Director, Frank Darabont.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** (0800 888997)

STARGATE (PG): Galactic adventures of Kurt Russell and James Spader. Preposterous derivative but fun. Roland Emmerich directs.
MGM Trocadero ◪ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **TERMINAL VELOCITY** (15): Skydiver Charlie Sheen tangles with Nastassja Kinski in a dim-witted thriller with a few good stunts.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

True light behind the veil

Hilary Finch paints a picture of her soul through a remarkable medium

I had swished a watery brush across the paper, and already she knew. "You're a musician, aren't you?" Do not be deceived by its name: veil-painting can lay the soul bare whatever your age.

I am in one of the classrooms at Kings Langley Waldorf School in Hertfordshire, watching with palette poised. A small wash of colour is laid on paper fixed to a sloping board. When it is dry, another layer is added, at a slightly different angle. As the paint runs down, you pick up the wet edge with the side of the brush. After each swathe has dried, the board can be turned round, the succeeding washes taken away upwards or downwards. The result is a layering of washes, a patterning of light and shade in which colour is

YOUNG AT art

built organically and in which form grows, crystal-like, out of colour and light itself.

If this sounds suspiciously Goethean, it is. The technique was developed mainly in Germany, Switzerland and Holland in the early years of this century from the ideas of the Austrian scientist and educationalist Rudolf Steiner and his investigations into Goethe's theory of light.

Veil-painting has only really caught on in Britain in the past 20 years. Veil-painters rarely exhibit their work, but they can usually be tracked down to areas where there is a Waldorf (Rudolf Steiner) School, and where the activity's educational and therapeutic work may have broadened out from the classroom to local groups of young people.

In Kings Langley, Evelyn Maxwell-Comfort, the *éminence grise* of English veil-painting, teaches groups of 13 to 18-year-olds. The air in the classroom is warm, dry, alive with silent concentration. The only colours in the palettes are crimson, scarlet, lemon yellow, Prussian blue and ultramarine. There is an ironing board and a hair-dryer in one corner. Veil-painters are a patient lot, but successive veils can be helped on their way.

One child is right at the beginning: the first exercise is simply to observe how a blue wash dissolves into mistiness in the centre and concentrates itself on the periphery. Yellow, radiating outward like light itself, works in reverse. Another young student is on the fourth exercise: a barely visible oval of luminous wash is being met by spiralling veils of blue from the edge. Soon sky and sea will encircle a luminous moonlight even Turner would be proud of.

This, of course, is half the attraction. Even one's first attempts tend to produce a dangerous glow of pride. Advanced painters such as Mrs Maxwell-Comfort — who claims that, even after 20 years at it, she is too much of a beginner to exhibit — can create mountain landscapes receding to infinity, complex light-filled patterns of crystal growth, sunflowers which seem born of the sun itself.

Ask what are the qualities which make for a successful veil-painter and you are likely to receive an answer along the lines of "well, as many qualities as there are in a human being, within the human soul". Look along a corridor lined with the students' paintings and you begin to see what is meant. They are all immediately and distinctively recognisable; yet, on further scrutiny, each one is strikingly different from its neighbour.

Veil-painting is chastely objective in its rejection of conscious self-expression, yet all-revealing in its results. The technique is used both pedagogically and for fun, but also in remedial work and with dyslexics within the Waldorf School movement. With an hour's work each day, one painting can take between two months and a year.

The effect on the children's other artwork is revelatory: Kings Langley School has an exceptional art department. The effect on a young person's way of seeing, in a world saturated with rapidly changing visual images, certainly gives pause for thought. Up and down the country, young veil-painters wait, and the waiting is long. It is worth digging them out.

ALAN WELLER



Brush work: Evelyn Maxwell-Comfort supervises young veil-painters at Kings Langley

HOW TO GET A SPOT OF COLOUR

- Veil-painting at Kings Langley: Evelyn Maxwell-Comfort, Flat 3, Rudolph Steiner School, Langley Hill, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire WD4 9HG (01923 267210)
- For information about other courses in Britain, contact Tobias School of Art, Coombe Hill Road, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 4LZ (01342 313655).
- For information on Waldorf education, contact Steiner Schools Fellowship, Kidbrooke Park, Forest Row RH18 5JB (01342 822115).

NEW ON VIDEO: Drag queens in the desert; men behaving oddly; press victim

■ **THE ADVENTURES OF PRISCILLA — QUEEN OF THE DESERT**
Columbia TriStar, 15, 1993
IRRESISTIBLE adventures of two drag queens and one transsexual en route to a cabaret engagement in Alice Springs. Writer-director Stephan Elliott charts their misfortunes with much rudery and a cheerful heart; only severe prudes should take offence. Terence Stamp turns heads as the languid transsexual with ash blond hair, while Hugo Weaving (from *Proof*) and *Neighbours* heart-throb Guy Pearce throw themselves into their parts with gay abandon.

■ **BABY'S DAY OUT**
ForVideo, PG, 1994
A WANDERING baby at large in the city tries its kidnappers' patience, and does much the same to the viewer. Producer-writer John Hughes used to invest his projects with sparkle, even some human insight, but now all we see are stale commercial formulae. Joe Mantegna and Lara Flynn Boyle star. Available to rent.

■ ***JUNGLE BOOK***
Imagine Home Entertainment, U, 1942
IN the wake of Disney's recent live-action remake, here is the wartime Korda version of Kipling's stories: a structurally uncertain blend of fantasy adventure and wildlife showcase, though you cannot fault the Technicolor spectacle, Miklós Rózsa's imaginative music and Sabu's winning smile as the boy raised by wolves in the Indian jungle.

■ **MINA TANNENBAUM**
Curzon, 12, 1994
THIS saga of a friendship from a new French director, Martine Dugowson, finally outstays its welcome, though the first half delights with its verve and social observations as the intense Mina and her gregarious friend Ethel share boyfriend trouble, fashion crises and parental wails. Dugowson sprinkles her tale with too many derivative visual tricks, but the girls, Romane Bohringer and Elsa Zylberstein, are generally fresh, funny and touching.

■ **THE ODD COUPLE**
CIC Video, PG, 1968
THE fussy hypochondriac and the sardonic slob are parts tailor-made for Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau, though Lemmon's part in Neil Simon's famous comedy was created on Broadway by Art Carney. As the two divorced husbands who share an apartment and discover why their marriages failed, the two play off each other to perfection. Director Gene Saks does nothing fancy but helps to keep the laughs coming.

■ **WAR OF THE BUTTONS**
Warner, 12, 1994
THIS quaint story about child rivalries originates in a French film of 1962. For David Puttnam's low-budget production, Brittany has been replaced by southwest Ireland. Young director John Roberts, a National Film and Television School graduate, has a knack for handling children and glories in the locations: the drama, though, seems too small and whimsical to make much impact.

■ ***THE LOST HONOUR OF KATHARINA BLUM***
Connoisseur, 15, 1975
VOLKER SCHLONDORFF achieved one of his biggest successes with this powerful drama about a woman's harassment by the gutter press, co-directed by Margarethe von Trotta. The material, drawn from Heinrich Böll's novel, is stamped with German concerns of the time: the activities of terrorist groups such as the Red Army Faction; right-wing hysteria from papers owned by Axel Springer. But thanks to Angela Winkler's sympathetic performance and the continuing behaviour of some media outlets, the film's force is untouched by time.

GEOFF BROWN

New Sunday best

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

CALLING all Londoners — and those in the capital for the weekend. Fancy taking in a top West End show on Sunday, at a discount? Theatre Club members can, paying only £15 for the best available seats (tickets normally £18 to £22.50) at Sunday matinees of the following productions:

Piccadilly Theatre
April 16, 23, 30
● RE-CREATING the often tragic life and thrilling music of the Big O, *The Roy Orbison Story* boasts 40 musical numbers from the golden era of rock'n'roll, including the classic hits *Oh Pretty Woman, Only The Lonely, It's Over* and *Crying, Blue Bayou* and *Running Scared*. Tickets normally £22. Tel 0171-369 1734

Comedy Theatre
May 7, 14, 21, 28
● STEPHANIE COLE, award-winning television actress for her role in the long-running comedy series *Waiting For God*, stars in *A Passionate Woman* as an ageing housewife whose passion for life breaks out — to the horror of her family. The play was written by Kay Mellor, writer of the hit television drama *Band of Gold*, and directed by Ned Sherrin. Tickets normally £22.50. Tel 0171-369 1731

Whitehall Theatre
May 14, 21, 28
June 4
● FOLLOWING her spectacular success at the Donmar Warehouse last year Maria Friedman — recent winner of a well-deserved Olivier Award for Best Entertainment — brings her livewire cabaret to the West End. Tickets normally £22.50. Tel 0171-369 1735

Donmar Warehouse
June 11, 18, 25
July 2
● TERRY JOHNSON, writer of the successful plays *Hysteria* and *Dead Funny* directs a revival of his 1984 play *Insignificance* in which a disparate collection of heroes and villains from an earlier age — Marilyn Monroe, Albert Einstein, Joe DiMaggio and Senator Joe McCarthy — are brought together in the same hotel. Tickets normally price £18. Tel 0171-369 1732

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TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO1 1GN, or telephone 0206 791737 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 071-387 9673
TO BOOK for any or all of this week's special offers, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive is the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage. Membership of the Theatre Club costs £12.50 a year and entitles members to buy two tickets for any club offer. Every week, members can save money, meet the cast and directors of productions, or visit different theatres on exclusive weekend breaks.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

BARNET
Old Bull Arts Centre
April 19-21, 25-28 (evenings); April 22, 27, 29 (matinees)
● ADAPTED from Chekhov's *The Seagull*, Peter Quilter and Charles Miller's *A Breath Of Life* is a new musical drama. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £8.50). Tel 0181-449 0048

EDINBURGH
Traverse Theatre
April 20-21
● DUBLIN humour and hot electric guitar in *Asylum! Asylum!* Two tickets for the price of one (normally £7). Tel 0131-228 1404

GLASGOW
Citizens Theatre
April 18-19
● TERRY NEASON and her band present a show of songs, poetry and prose. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £6). Tel 0141-429 0022

CHESTERFIELD
Pomegranate Theatre
April 20-21
● SEE Steinbeck's *East of Eden*, adapted by Robert Parsley, for £4 (normally £6). Tel 01246 232901

MANCHESTER
Palace Theatre
June 13-14
● NORTHERN Ballet Theatre presents *Swan Lake*. Save 20 per cent on stalls seats (normally £13 to £23 *plus a booking fee of £1.75*). Tel 0161-242 2503

KENDAL
The Brewery
April 21-30
● LEADING European companies combine for ten days of theatre and dance. Buy a ticket for any one of 25 productions and see a second free. Tel 01539 725133

BUXTON
Opera House
April 20-22
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £4.50 to £10.50) to see *Passion Killers*, by John Godber. Tel 01298 72190

BRIGHTON
Komedia
April 26
● TORSION race through *Hamlet* and *Romeo and Juliet* in 90 minutes. Tickets £5.50 (normally £7.50). Tel 01273 670030

ON TOUR

● ENGLISH National Ballet presents four short ballets, including Mauro Bignozetti's acclaimed *X.N.Tricities*, at:

DARTFORD
Orchard Theatre
April 16
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £16). Tel 01322 220000
HIGH WYCOMBE
Wycombe Swan
April 28, 29
● SAVE £3 on £14.50 and £16.50 tickets. Tel 01494 512000

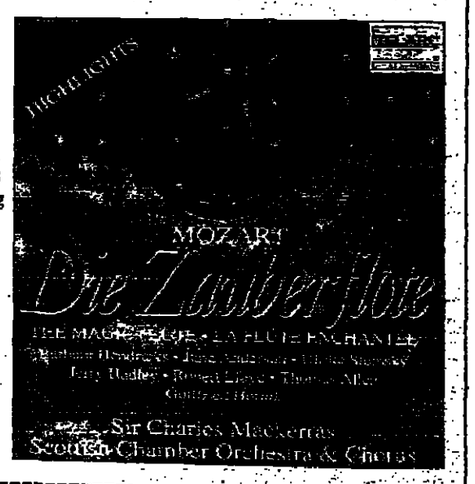
The WH Smith featured CD

The Magic Flute is a sparkling comedy - one of Mozart's most popular yet sophisticated works. Within a week of its premiere in 1791, opera connoisseurs were heaping praise on it.

This week's *Times*/WH Smith recommended recording features Sir Charles Mackerras conducting the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Chorus, with outstanding performances from June Anderson, Barbara Hendricks and Jerry Hadley.

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RECORDINGS: A tantalising operatic gem; an unmissable collection of classics; overdue exposure for a jazz pianist; and flattery for Led Zeppelin



DENIS WAUGH

Sian Edwards maintains the impetus in Judith Weir's Blond Eckbert even through the composer's characteristic stopping and starting phrases

Stephen Pettitt

■ **WEIR**
Blond Eckbert
Jones/Owens/Ventris/Folwell/ ENO Orchestra and Chorus/Edwards
Collins Classics 14612★★
JUDITH Weir's short opera, premiered by English National Opera last year, is a little gem, a moral tale simple in fact and character.

The music likewise has a simple surface — often not more than a single decorated line — that disguises rich inventiveness and subtle structure.

This recording, made live, comes from the videotape made for Channel 4's broadcast. Those who were put off by the extravagance of the staging will welcome the chance to hear the music in this more intimate guise; those who did not see the work will warm to its charms. The cast of four — Nerys Jones (A bird), Anne-Marie Owens (Berthe), Nicholas Folwell (Blond Eckbert himself) and Christopher Ventris (An Old Woman who takes on the guise of Walther and Hugh, Eckbert's supposed friends) — all sing beautifully, and the conductor Sian Edwards ensures that impetus is maintained even through Weir's characteristic and constant stopping and starting phrases.

□ **MAW**
Piano Trio/Flute Quartet
Monticelli Trio/Pearce/Coletti
ASV CD DCA 920★★★
THE MUSIC of Nicholas Maw, who is 60 this year, is lush, immediate, powerful, yet still contemporary. The two chamber works on this fine disc, the Flute Quartet of 1981 and the Piano Trio of 1991, are among his most effective and orginal pieces in any medium, and here they receive warm and, where necessary, fiery performances from the American Monticello Trio. A British player, Judith Pearce, is the excellent flautist in the Quartet.

□ **ANTHEIL**
Bad Boy of Music
Marthanne Verbit
Albany Troy 146★★
PAY NO attention to the silly title. True, the American composer George Antheil did cause a riot when he played his own pieces in Paris in 1923, but Parisian audiences have a distinguished history of such behaviour. Antheil was in essence a serious experimental composer. The earliest of the piano works recorded here — the *Airplane Sonata* of 1921 and the *Sonata Sauvage* of 1922 — exploit the more percussive aspects of the piano; the extracts from *La Femme 100 Têtes* after Max Ernest show a variety of ideas and approaches in miniature. Most of all, Antheil reminds us how invigorating it is to be different. Marthanne Verbit plays every piece with conviction and exactitude.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ **JESSICA WILLIAMS TRIO**
A Song That I Heard
Hep Jazz HEPCD-3061★★
FOR REASONS that are hard to fathom, Jessica Williams has had to wait a long time to take her rightful place on the international stage. Flocks of younger, flashier pianists possessing a fraction of her individuality have been rounded up by the major labels. Williams, on the other hand, has received ample praise from American critics and musicians (Dave Brubeck leading the chorus) without breaking through to the record-buying public.

What immediately sets her apart is her use of the full resources of the keyboard. She exploits a tune's rhythmic potential through unpredictable leaps in the left hand and dramatic shifts in tone and dynamics. There are fleeting echoes of both Monk and Bill Evans, yet she prefers to take saxophonists with an elastic sense of time — Rollins, Griffin and Coltrane — as her models.

An instinctively melodic player, she can break into brash, double-time passages without overly disrupting the flow of a song. The eccentrically titled *(Beautiful Girl of My Dreams) I Love You, I Love You, I Love You* dips briefly into an old-fashioned stride pattern, and her gift for composing uncomplicated but affecting themes is displayed on *Blues for Mandela*.

□ **JIMMY ROWLES**
Lilac Time
Kokopelli KOKO-1297★★
OVER the past 40 years Rowles has been the accompanist of choice for everyone from Billie Holiday to Peggy Lee and Tony Bennett. His piano simmers quietly in this sequence of after-hours duets with the bassist Eric von Essen, with the occasional gravelly vocal as a bonus. Aside from *Night in Tunisia* he avoids the stock tunes, striking out instead into *Maids of Cadiz* and *I'm Old Fashioned*.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ ***STRAUSS***
Der Zigeunerbaron
Coburn/Oelze/Lippert/Schasching/Holzmair/Vienna Symphony/Harnoncourt
Teldec 4509-94555-2 (2 CDs) ★★★
IT HAS been a marvellous year for operetta. First DG's *Merry Widow*, then Conifer's *Pinafore* and now *Zigeunerbaron* from Teldec. Johann Strauss's *Baron* certainly needed a new recording, especially since EMI has withdrawn its CD set with



Harnoncourt: light voices

Schwarzkopf and Gedda. Excellent though that issue was, it only gave part of the piece, according to Teldec's conductor, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, who has uncovered a quantity of music normally cut. Teldec has also been generous with the spoken dialogue (German) of Strauss's complex plot, and the two discs run to 50 minutes more than EMI's.

But test the quality as well as the length. Harnoncourt is out to display *Zigeunerbaron* as a hymn to the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It may end in Vienna, but its real subject is the Banat, not one of Austria's more sophisticated provinces. It gave the composer full play with hussars, recruiting officers, gypsies and, best of all, the pig-breeder, Zsupán, one of operetta's ripest characters. Strauss wrote it for the Viennese comedian, Girardi, and gave him a solo in each act.

Normally he is taken by a baritone and even a bass. Harnoncourt reverts to a character tenor, Rudolf Schasching, who never overdoes things but has enough provincial bombast to amuse the Viennese sophisticates when Zsupán returns in the last act from fighting the Spaniards.

Throughout Harnoncourt opts for light, nimble voices. Herbert Lippert, as Sandor Barinkay who becomes the gypsy baron, may not be a Gedda or a Patzak, but has great charm. And Wolfgang Holzmair makes his presence felt as Homonay, the recruiting Count. Christiane Oelze, Anne Truelove in Glyndebourne's *Rake* last summer, is a sweet-voiced Arsena, the girl Barinkay does not marry, and there is an equally neat performance from Elisabeth von Magnus in the small part of Mirabella. The gypsies are less well served by Pamela Coburn's strained Saffi and Julia Hamari as her mother.

But *Zigeunerbaron* is truly an ensemble operetta, especially in this full version.

CHORAL

Hilary Finch

■ **VERDI**
Requiem
ORR/Gardiner/soloists
Philips 442 142-2★★★
THERE can be few finer musical Easter eggs to hatch this month than John Eliot Gardiner's outstanding recording of Verdi's *Requiem*, with the Monteverdi Choir and the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique. The *Requiem* has often been called Verdi's greatest opera. Yet Verdi himself stated that "one mustn't sing this Mass in the way one sings an opera". It is Gardiner's achievement to draw from all his performers just that sense of full-hearted delivery without a moment's posturing. This focused ardour is typified by the beseeching tenor of Luca Canonici and the raw humanity of soprano Luba Orgonasova's concentrated plea of *Libera me*. To hear all soloists (Anne Sofie von Otter and Alastair Miles as well) sing with a single colour in moments such as the *Pie Jesu* and the *Offertorio* is a miracle indeed.

The perfect fade-up of choral light from the *Luceat eis* into the soloists' first entry and the way the clarity of the brass instruments balances the ten-strong bass line to create a shudder of real terror in the *Tuba mirum* are two among many superb moments in this *Requiem*. The two discs are filled out by equally fine performances of the Four Sacred Pieces.

□ **HAYDN**
Stabat Mater
Concentus Musicus Wien/Harnoncourt
Teldec 4509 95085-2★★★
THE Monteverdi Choir's performance of Verdi's *Stabat Mater* is one of the high points of the Four Sacred Pieces. But Haydn made much more of the 13th-century poetic sequence in his first large-scale penitential piece for Eisenstadt, first performed on Good Friday, 1767. Nikolaus Harnoncourt and his band throw into sharp relief the plangent chromaticism of the writing; and the excellent Arnold Schoenberg Choir brings an austere ardour to their alternating verses.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ **DG: THE ORIGINALS**
Various artists
DG 447 398-2 (Complete set)
★★★
CUT-PRICE CD reissues continue to flood the market, often with all the discrimination of a tidal wave. But this selection of releases from the Deutsche Grammophon back catalogue is something different: a choice collection of some of the finest recordings ever made.

The repertoire may be standard but the interpretations are anything but. Witness the pairing of Beethoven's Fifth and Seventh Symphonies from Carlos Kleiber (*447 400-2*): the former a reading of power and integrity, the latter no less incisive. Or Dvořák's Eighth and Ninth Symphonies in the celebrated recordings by Rafael Kubelik (*447 412-2*): strongly propelled, idiomatic and affectionate.

From Karajan, central to DG's reputation in the LP era, I would pick out a stunning Strauss disc bringing together electrifying readings of *Death and Transfiguration* and *Metamorphosen* with a rapturous Four Last Songs (*447 423-2*) (Gundula Janowitz the soloist), and a coupling of the First Symphonies of Brahms and Schumann (*447 408-2*).

Sviatoslav Richter's interpretations of two old warhorses, Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto and Rachmaninov's Second (*447 420-2*), amount almost to a deconstruction: in the Tchaikovsky (again with Karajan) any suggestion of sentimentality gives way to concentrated introspection, while virtuosity is never paraded for its own sake; the Rachmaninov is lean, austere and thoughtful.

Any of the above could unhesitatingly be recommended as a library choice. With Bartók's three piano concertos, in classic performances by the composer's compatriots Geza Anda and Ferenc Fricsay (*447 399-2*), the recordings show their age (1959-60) in inferior sound quality and pinched brass tone. A word of warning, too, about the Fifth and Sixth Symphonies of Tchaikovsky under Evgeny Mravinsky (coupled with the Fourth under Kurt Sanderling) (*447 423-2*). They demand to be heard, but, with their variable sound quality, are not for frequent listening.

There is much more in this collection than there is space to mention. And since each of the 25 issues is also available separately at mid-price, one is spoilt for choice. My advice would be: if you can afford the lot, go for it.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

■ **VARIOUS ARTISTS**
Encomium — A Tribute To Led Zeppelin
Atlantic 7567-82731★★
IT IS very difficult to improve on a Led Zeppelin performance, and the producers of *Encomium* have assembled a stellar cast of musicians to prove it.

The 12 acts do what they can to bring their choices to life. Stone Temple Pilots give *Dancing Days* the delicate, unplugged treatment. Helmet with David Yow (of the Jesus Lizard) stick the heavy metal boot into *Custard Pie*, and Henry Rollins converts *Four Sticks* into his standard mad-man-on-steroids rant.

But for the rest — including 4 Non Blondes (*Misty Mountain Hop*), Hootie & the Blowfish (*Hey Hey What Can I Do*), Sheryl Crow (*D'yer Mak'er*) and Big Head Todd and the Monsters (*Tangerine*) — imitation turns out to be the only viable form of flattery.

The album closes with Robert Plant and Tori Amos engaged in a dotty seven-minute duet of *Down By The Seaside*, which they both seem to be singing as if completely unable to hear each other. As something of a whimsical flight of fancy, it does at least stand out from the otherwise rather earnest crowd.

Sadly, Rolf Harris's version of *Stairway To Heaven* is not included.

POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

■ **SHANE MACGOWAN AND SINEAD O'CONNOR**
Haunted
ZTT/WEA ZANG65CD★★
ONE can only speculate on the vibes in the studio when this pair got together for what many will regard as the pop duet from hell.

Brandishing a riff that sounds like a suspiciously close relative of the Who's *Baba O'Riley*, *Haunted* is a song MacGowan wrote for the soundtrack of Alex Cox's movie, *Sid & Nancy*. O'Connor sets the melancholy mood in her softest, choir-girl soprano: "Do you remember that sunny day somewhere in London in



Sinead and Shane: duet

the middle of nowhere?" But the scene darkens as MacGowan's horrendous croak arrives like a black cloud, drifting in with the the band.

It is difficult to think of two less compatible, let alone companionable, singers. And yet, as O'Connor's pure tones mingle with MacGowan's pitiful rasp — "I wanna be haunted by the ghost of your precious love" — against all the odds, a crude chemistry of sorts occurs.

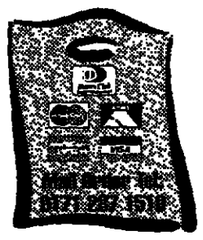
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GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q I have a three-year-old corkscrew hazel, *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta', which grows well in a large container but last year threw a strong, straight stem from the base. Should I cut this off, and will that get rid of it permanently? — Mrs. S. Lenton, Collingham, Nottinghamshire.

A The nickname of this plant is "Harry Lauder's walking stick", after the spiral-stemmed stick the old Scottish music hall artist carried. The corkscrewing is caused by an irregularity in its growth rate, which makes one side develop faster than the other, forcing the shoot to curve. It is usually propagated by grafting, and your shoot from the base will be a sucker of ordinary hazel. It needs to be removed or it will overwhelm the plant.

Rather than cut it off, leaving a small stump to regrow, pull the sucker away from the stem as you would a rose sucker. This ought to solve the problem, but once a plant has started to sucker, it often recurs. The important thing is to take suckers off while they are small, and not to let them draw strength from the grafted plant. Rub them off with a thumb while they are still soft.

The same problem occurs on plants of *Viburnum juddii* and *V. x carlcephalum*, which are grafted on to *V. lantana*: rub off suckers while they are small.

The willow *Salix babylonica pekinensis* 'Tortuosa', also corkscrews — presumably in an attempt to flee the botanists who changed its simple name *Salix matsudana* 'Tortuosa' to the present correct mouthful. This plant, like all willows, is easy to strike from cuttings, and can be hard pruned without fear of suckering. It tends to be rather a congested shrub or small tree, showing off its corkscrews less well than the hazel. Abbey Dore Court garden in Herefordshire has a good specimen, which has been heavily thinned out to produce a fascinating giant bonsai.

Q We planted a *Clematis montana* about three years ago to climb up a tree. It has been well fed but has never produced a flower. Should we accept that this particular plant will never flower and replace it? — R.A. Griffin, The Hague, Netherlands.

A Try and stop a *Clematis montana* flowering! The only things which even half succeed are heavy shade and early spring pruning which removes the flowering growth made last season. I assume that at this stage in its life you are hardly pruning it at all, to allow it to get up into the tree. Once it gets its head out into the light it should respond. Maybe it had a few flowers which have been taken by mice or birds. But usually they are left alone, since they are relatively poisonous. If you are sure that it really is a *C. montana*, I would be patient for another year or two, and keep feeding it.

● *Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

George Plumptre, The Times Gardener, shows how to get more enjoyment from your garden by night



OUTDOOR LIGHTING

Cleverly placed recessed garden lighting at Le Manoir Aux Quat' Saisons hotel and restaurant in Oxfordshire highlights the beauty of trees, plants, wall textures and pond

Switch on to exciting lighting

Weather permitting, this weekend may be the first opportunity of the year to sit out in your garden, and, as dusk falls, it will be worth reflecting on how your enjoyment could be extended by well-positioned decorative lighting. Such lighting is fun and adds a new dimension to the rewards your garden provides. Unlike security lighting, which can give a *gulag* effect, decorative lighting will enhance the garden's best features — and if it acts as a deterrent to intruders, that is a welcome bonus.

Decorative lighting ranges from the simple and cheap to the sophisticated and expensive. Candle-holders or lanterns add to the romance of an evening garden and are easy to re-position, according to which plants are at their best.

A basic ceramic or terracotta candle-holder costs about £10, but there are more interesting holders, which also qualify as ornaments. Mellors Garden Ceramics in Dorset produces hand-made, Japanese-style, glazed stoneware lanterns, in six sizes, from about 18in high (£180) to 40in high (£360).

Hozelock and Gardena sell kits comprising lights (with a selection of styles), waterproof cable and a transformer which reduces the mains 240 voltage to a safer 12 or 24 volts. For a set with five lights, Gardena's recommended price is £59.99. Hozelock's starter kit, with two lights, is £67. Automatic time-control switches and movement sensors are extra.

Such lighting units are not expensive and can be moved around, but they are at best functional in appearance, and they are visible. For the latter reason, and the fact that they give illumination rather than light enhancement, they would not stand up to the demands of a specialist such as Christopher Thornton, of the Outdoor Lighting Company.

If someone says of a Thornton project, "What fantastic garden lighting", he considers it a failure. What he wants people to say is, "What a fantastic garden". His aim is to integrate the lighting so that it gives the impression of being part of the scene rather than an added feature.

You should employ a qualified electrician to install the wiring for a garden lighting system, even if you choose to design the lighting effect yourself. If you are starting a garden from scratch, install the cabling and junction boxes at the same time as paths and other hard foundations. The rule is that all the cabling should be invisible and beyond the reach of garden spades and forks.

Do not choose lighting units for their appearance, but for the effect they will give. Ideally, you will not see the light source, so what the unit looks like is irrelevant.

The attraction of low-voltage power, apart from safety, is that it allows for smaller fittings, which are less conspicuous. These fittings offer a wider range of beam width, from 10 degrees to 60 degrees, compared to those run off the mains, which are limited to 10-30 degrees. This means you can either pinpoint a statue or wash over a structural plant with a strength of light varying from 20 to 50 watts.

Flexible beam width is an important element in the overall effect. Mr Thornton says that it allows you to consider your garden as a theatre lights' technician would a stage, giving varied effect from a series of invisible sources.

Low-voltage lighting is limited to the area it can practically cover. It is ideal for the average town garden, but for larger areas a mains supply unit should be used. This increases safety factors. The supply should have a circuit-breaker, which cuts the power if the cable is damaged or broken. The cable should be buried and insulated against the wet or accidental damage.

To maximise the success of a lighting system, Mr Thornton gives the following pointers. Lighting a border from ground level, he says, produces a dotted effect, which pinpoints the fitting. It also has the seasonal problem of being obtrusive in winter when there are no plants, and hidden by growth in summer.

Fixing a light to shine down, or moonlighting, is a better method, giving a wash of light over the plants. The naturalness of moonlighting can be increased by positioning the light in a tree, so that it introduces the shadows and movement of branches.

Up-lighters set in the ground are effective for large individual trees or shrubs. Powerful recessed up-lighters run off the mains can produce a superb effect on mature trees. Any architectural feature — statue, urn or fountain — is ideal for being lit, but the light's sourced position and strength need careful planning. Any spotlight or large floodlight should be fitted with an anti-glare shade.

A good lighting system can certainly transform your garden throughout the year. It can also be expensive. Mr Thornton estimates that it costs £150 to install one good quality garden light. This means that a small garden with six fittings, could cost nearly £1,000. But from here, as the garden size grows, the extent of installation expands, and the quantity and size of light fittings increase the cost.

But always remember: garden lighting is flexible; you can have as much or as little as you can afford — and a little is probably best. As Mr Thornton says: "Simple is stylish."

● *Specialists: The Outdoor Lighting Company (0181-974 2211); Garden & Security Lighting (0171-237 5323); John Cullen Lighting (0171-371 5400). Lighting kits: Gardena UK (01462 686688); Hozelock (consumer help line, 01844 292002). Lanterns/lamps: Mellors Garden Ceramics (01297 6782127); Stiffkey Lamp Shop (01328 830463); Otter Wrought Iron Products (01787 228280); Roger Brown (01226 762088).*

WEEKEND TIPS

● *Plant out sweet pea seedlings that have been raised under glass and hardened off; use pea sticks or netting for support.*

● *Seedlings of half-hardy annuals will be ready for pricking out into seed trays, spaced out regularly.*

● *You can now sow frost-prone vegetable seeds, such as courgettes.*

● *Plant gladioli corms and tender, summer-flowering bulbs, such as* Nerine bowdenii. *A layer of sharp sand below the corms assists drainage.*

● *Take basal cuttings from perennials, cutting off new shoots 3-4in long close to the base; root them in potting compost in a warm position.*



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Gardens to visit



Statue allée at St Paul's Walden Bury

☐ St Paul's Walden Bury, Whitwell, Hertfordshire (01438 871218).

Five miles north of Whitwell on B651. Open tomorrow, May 21, June 11, July 2, 2-7pm. £2, children 50p.

One of only three or four formal woodland gardens that survive in England from the late 17th and early 18th centuries, St Paul's Walden Bury is visually stunning. From a central point on the garden side of the house, a series of three allées stretch out through the woodland beyond, first dipping and then rising into the distance. A huge statue of Hercules terminates the central one, the two side ones leading to the goddess Diana and the tower of the parish church. Running across these three are two other main allées, one of which has a view over the lake to the portico of an 18th-century temple by William Chambers. Most of the old hornbeam hedges along the allées were replaced by Sir David Bowes-Lyon, the Queen Mother's younger brother, for whom St Paul's was a childhood home. He also began planting rhododendrons and other woodland shrubs, mainly to one side of the old formal woodland, which has been continued by his son, Simon. The woodland will not have its green canopy until summer but, now, when the leaf is starting to break and the views are unobscured, it is equally rewarding.

☐ Knightshayes Court, Bolham, Tiverton, Devon (01884 254665).

North of Tiverton off A396. Open daily April-Oct, 11am-5.30pm. £2.80, children £1.40.

The imposing red Devon stone Victorian house by William Burgess looks down sloping parkland to the River Exe and Tiverton. To one side a terrace path leads through a series of formal gardens, where in spring the geometric yew hedges dominate. Steps lead up into the Garden in the Wood. From 1947, natural woodlands were transformed into a garden by Sir John and Lady Amory. Retaining the majestic trees, they made winding paths and created vistas and open glades. This framework was filled with an absorbing array of woodland plants, from towering magnolias and other flowering trees to the smallest cyclamen, erythroniums, and trilliums. For many years after her husband's death in 1972, Lady Amory continued gardening in partnership with the National Trust, and the skilful integration of a wide variety of often unusual plants into the natural setting continues to be an important quality at Knightshayes. At this time of year, when only a limited amount of leaf has broken on the trees, well-positioned flowering trees and shrubs are superbly prominent, while banks of lower plants flow along the various paths. For anyone starting to plant a woodland garden, visit Knightshayes before the end of May.

☐ Netherbyres, Eyemouth, Berwickshire, Scotland (01890 750337).

Near Eyemouth on A1107. Open tomorrow and July 16, 2-6pm. £1.50, children 50p.

Netherbyres, with its 18th-century elliptical brick walled garden, is a must for any walled garden enthusiast. Designed and built before 1750 by William Craw, a mathematician and engineer, it covers one and a half acres. Where old glasshouses and a vinery stood against one wall, Colonel Simon Furness has built a house, which fits in well. In 1991 he gave the main house, about 200 yards away, to the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society as a home for retired gardeners. The walled garden has a sheltered atmosphere and at this time of year sports wallflowers and hyacinths. Apple and pear trees, some free-standing and others trained against the walls, are coming into leaf. They include one pear tree known to have been planted by Craw and now smothered by *Clematis orientalis*. Herbaceous borders and roses come into their own in summer. Outside the walled garden are drifts of many daffodil varieties beneath manure beech, which also date from the 18th century.

☐ Crug Farm, Griffiths Crossing, Caernarfon, Gwynedd (01248 670232).

Two miles northeast of Caernarfon, off the A487 Caernarfon-Bangor road. Open until Sept 25; Thur, Fri, Sat, Sun and Bank Hol Mons, 10am-6pm. £1, children free.

Mr and Mrs Bleddwyn Wynn-Jones make regular plant-hunting trips abroad. Their three-acre garden, which used to ramble around the old country house, and their adjacent nursery, are brimming with evidence of their interest. Having admired one or more of the garden's unusual perennials or small shrubs, visitors can usually buy a plant in the nursery. Daphnes are a speciality, but there is also a big collection of hardy geraniums and a rich variety of other plants to make an absorbing visit.

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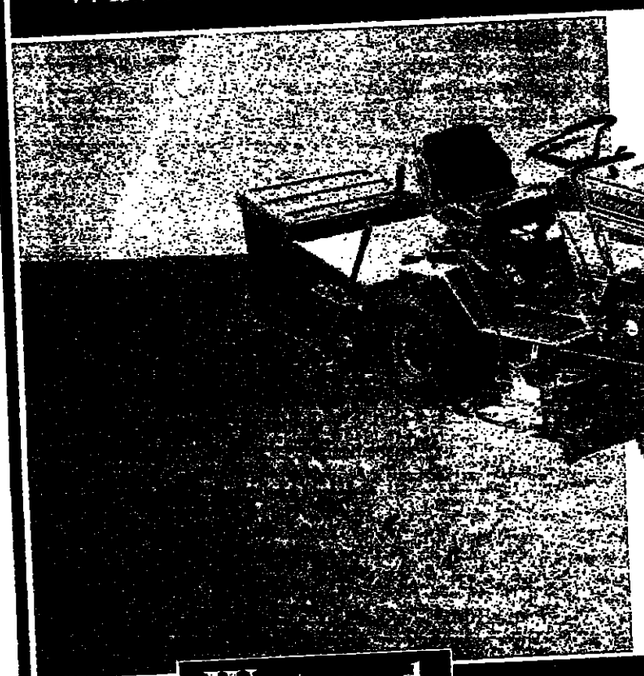
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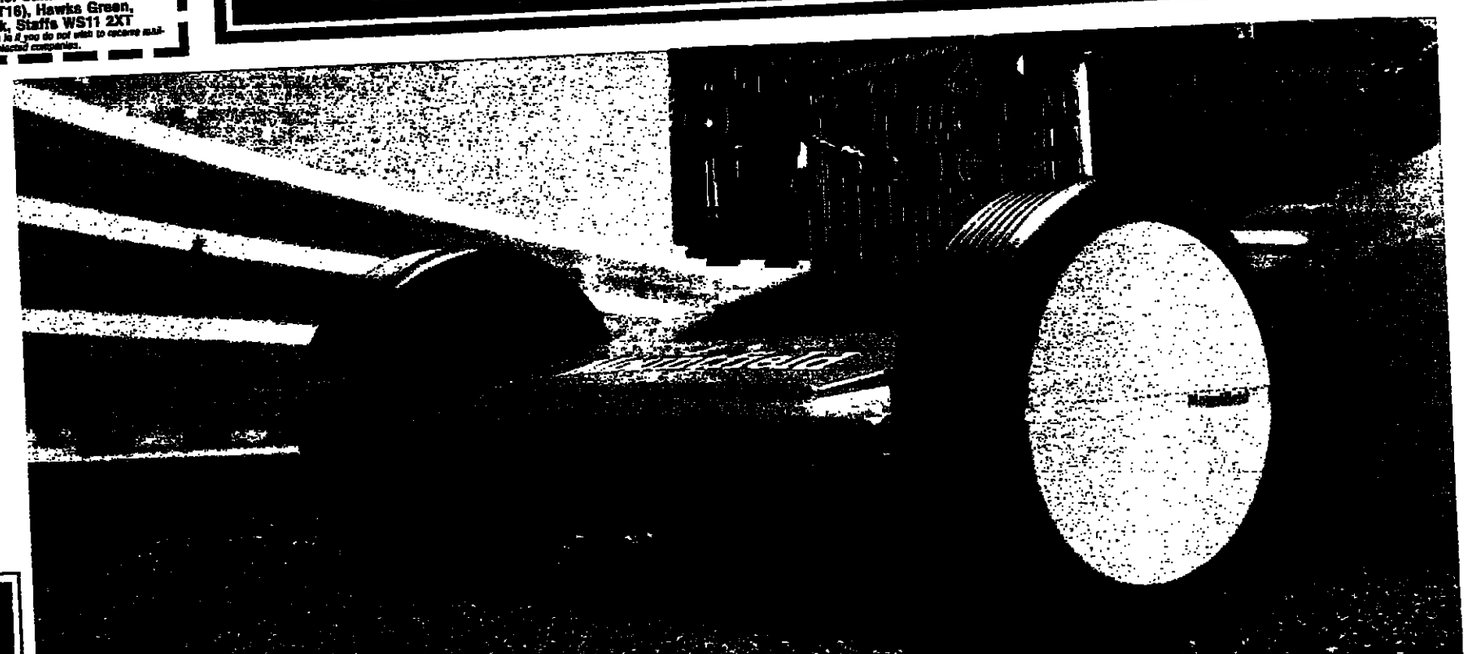
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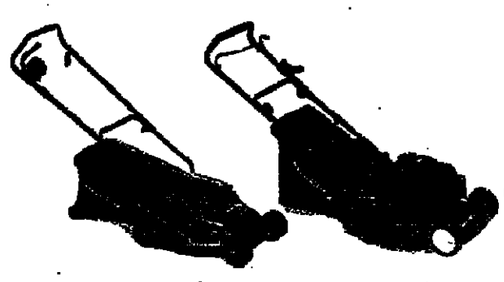
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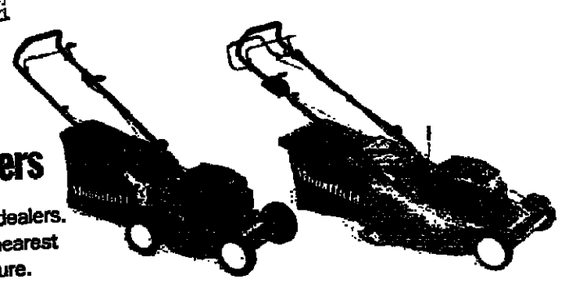
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Ripping yarn out of Africa

■ THE SEVENTH SCROLL
By Wilbur Smith
Macmillan, £15.99

IT IS not unusual for a writer to produce one book with the sequel already in mind. The difference in Wilbur Smith's case is that the two are separated by 4,000 years.

Nobody who read *River God* will have failed to understand the message of the last line of the author's note: "Somewhere in the Abyssinian mountains near the source of the Blue Nile the mummy of Tanus still rests in the unviolated tomb of Pharaoh Mamose". Great shades of Tutankhamun, bring on Indiana Jones.

Or, in this case, Sir Nicholas Quenton-Harper, baronet of the realm and doer of dashing deeds, accompanied by the Egyptian siren who knows the secrets of the tomb. To be fair, Smith has updated his archetypes: our baronet has lost his cash through being a Lloyd's name, while our siren is a doctor of archaeology with a feminist streak.

Nonetheless, the cast of *The Seventh Scroll* is straight out of *Boy's Own* with a plot from Rider Haggard: a ripping yarn with lots of blood and guts, and not too much bodice-ripping. At one point in their search for the pharaoh's tomb, Quenton-Harper even exclaims that the ancient slave whose labours they must seek to emulate has damned the "whole flipping river". I say, sir, mind your language. But it is hugely enjoyable for all that.

Smith's love of Africa and its landscapes comes across in some evocative prose, while he also conveys a pragmatic attitude towards Africans born of experience. There is a sense of resignation when he writes of "this racked continent, where the endless struggles were fuelled and nurtured by the age-old tribal enmities and the greed and corruption of the new-age politicians and their outmoded ideologies".

Perhaps the most bizarre touch, however, is the way that Smith has written himself into the plot. Although he never appears in person, his characters liberally drop his name in references to a fictionalised chronicle of the scrolls they are following. The device is heavy-handed and the joke not worth the play he gives it. The one advantage, from the author's point of view, is that it leaves the reader with one question: "What will Wilbur do next?"

PETER MILLAR

Westminster noodles

Matthew Parris on the amiable memoirs of the journalist John Cole

■ AS IT SEEMED TO ME
By John Cole
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20

ONE OF the stalwarts of *The Golden Girls* used to interrupt her friend's anecdotes with the question, "Where is *this* story going, *Rose?*" I enjoyed John Cole's political recollections, found them readable, amiable and sometimes sharp, but had sometimes to stifle on my lips the friendly inquiry, "Where is this story going, John?"

I guess that's the way memoirs are. But as Cole sticks ruthlessly to his promise not to talk about himself as a man but about his lifelong engagement with Westminster, he misses the key question: what made him such a successful television commentator?

There were three reasons. First, he was memorable; second, his integrity was transparent; third, he possessed that combination of opposing qualities, so helpful to a television career: a bold manner and a cautious intellect.

I always found a commentary from Cole was like a Chinese meal: soon you wanted another because, though his confiding and folksy delivery conveyed a warm feeling of being treated to an insider's view, you couldn't (ten minutes later) quite remember what it was.

That egg-noodles quality pervades *As It Seemed To Me*. Cole writes beautifully in good, professionally crafted, plain English; and the first half of these memoirs reminds us that he started as a *Guardian* journalist and nearly became Editor. We learn that he remains an old-fashioned, mixed-economy corporatist, the kind who rails against what Mrs Thatcher "did" to Britain. It is a tribute to Cole's scrupulous self-discipline that few of his audience ever suspected this. He was always fair and remains so in these memoirs, carefully separating reports from opinion.

The problem for me is that the opinion you can take or leave — I leave — and the reports only sometimes pass the "so what?" test.

In the course of what amounts to a useful textbook on modern British political history, Cole offers some pithy insider quotes and takes us, too, behind the cameras. Here, drawing on his voluminous diaries, he tells us what he heard and saw. But what *does* a lobby correspondent see and hear? How fed up Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet colleagues became with her bossiness; how her antipathy towards Geoffrey Howe grew; how determined Tony Blair is to "take on" his party...

But we know all that. We know because, using the likes of Mr Cole as mouthpieces, politicians have wished us to know. It is rather rarely, I think, that a lobby correspondent "discovers" anything. A reading of this book reinforces the view that the media have become for politicians a way of communicating with each other, as well as with us.

In that sense, then, the BBC's political editor has become part of the Constitution; another player, albeit from the wings. So I suppose it is unsurprising that we now expect them to write their memoirs, just like Cabinet ministers. Along with the best of them Mr Cole recalls this little spat, explains that little contretemps on camera, chuckles at this or that little technical hitch, or reveals how a reported aside enraged her, or him, or did or didn't change the course of history.

Ah well. Of this retiring politico, if not of the Rt. Hon. kind, we can at least say he writes good English, eschews tedious self-justification, and comes across as a nice man.



Clark Gable, who made singlets unfashionable, with Claudette Colbert in *It Happened One Night*

Screen dreams

Gerald Kaufman on the role models and visual metaphors in 100 years of cinema

■ THE PHANTOM EMPIRE
By Geoffrey O'Brien
Norton, £15.95

IN THE Arctic wastes of Norway, blandly blonde teenagers used to try to resemble the sultry Ava Gardner. Migrating to California, Jewish furriers and scrap merchants from Minsk and Warsaw created a system of mass entertainment which imposed role models in every continent.

In this knowledgeable treatise, the American poet and journalist Geoffrey O'Brien shows how film fans smoked like Bogart, dispensed with singlets like Gable in *It Happened One Night*, and copied hairstyles of stars such as Veronica Lake and Tony Curtis.

Themes and characters became universally recognisable: "Amnesia and manslaughter, ten years of false imprisonment, sleuths with a knowledge of pedigree dogs and Chinese vases."

Audiences acquired expertise in interpreting visual metaphors for the passing of time — "neon signs, calendar pages flipping, snowdrifts and blossoms" — absorbed the emblems of thrillers and horror movies ("The skull, the abyss, the barred door, the tattoo"), and sighed in exasperated apprehension when "the group would allow itself to be split up, the characters would go back into the house, would walk into the darkened room".

They learnt "the layout of rubber plantations in Malaya, how to suck venom out of snakebites... the fine points of Coptic architecture laid out by Robert Taylor in *Valley of the Kings* or the crux of the jury system driven home by Henry Fonda in *Twelve Angry Men*".

Presidents and dictators became addicts. Hitler adored *Gunga Din*; Saddam Hussein repeatedly watched *The Godfather*, and Stalin loved cowboy films.

O'Brien ends his book with apocalyptic musings on the centenary of the cinema marking the finale of moviedom's sway. Yet today's choice of films on television or home video — and tomorrow's smart-card selection on the information superhighway — will be governed by profitable exhibition in cinemas. Neil Braun of NBC explains: "Movie theatres create value. The more successful a movie is in a theatre, the more successful it will be in a video store." The 20th century's flickering image viewed by strangers gathered together in the dark will merge into the durable interactive software of the 21st century.

A painfully personal account of one woman's progress from diagnosis through the treatment of her breast cancer

Fighting to be fit again

■ THE DIARY OF A BREAST
By Elisa Segrave
Faber & Faber, £9.99

"DEEPLY and seriously funny," says Irma Kurtz of this book on its cover. Well, no, Irma. There aren't many laughs in breast cancer, and although there is much to smile at here, a lot of the humour seems unintentional.

This is a wincingly honest diary of nine months in one woman's experience, from diagnosis through radiotherapy and chemotherapy to an unknown but hopeful ending.

Along the way we follow *inter alia* the progress of Elisa Segrave's young children, one of whom is in therapy; her strained relationship with her alcoholic mother; her impending divorce and sundry love affairs; her bewildering array of exotic friends; her fellow patients in the oncology ward; and her mission to have her writing published. Certainly her courage and spirit shine out, such as the kick she gets one day from entering the hospital for a chemotherapy session by a forbidden side entrance meant for medical students only.

So it seems churlish to criticise, yet I did not like the diary, because I could not like the diarist. She comes across as neurotic, self-obsessed, a shameless name-dropper: "We invited some friends of Cynthia for a drink... this man is a brilliant historian who was made a lord this summer. I think on the recommendation of David Owen... Dinner with the Donaldsons... We met them in the Eighties at a dinner of Lord Weidenfeld."

Of course, no amount of money or privilege can buy a cure, but it can ease the burden: Segrave is able to pay for people to look after her children or cook for her at a moment's notice, or fly to Paris and Florida to lift her spirits, and an occasional acknowledgement of her advantages would have been endearing. I know women who, in addition to coping with their children single-handed throughout their treatment, must fit their hospital sessions round their jobs or risk losing them.

So, not many laughs here; not much use for practical information either, since every patient's experience is highly individual, and the wonderful cancer charities can supply detailed guidance for every stage. And sufferers such as my sister are too exhausted fighting their own battles to read about someone else's. For the rest of us, perhaps, it has a "there but for the grace of God" factor. Elisa Segrave has my prayers, but no plaudits.

SALLY BAKER

'Sparks fly, wires cross and connections crackle throughout Victoria Glendinning's terrific new novel.'
Daily Mail

VICTORIA GLENDINNING
Electricity

'Magnificent: an historical novel which manages to be authentic, engrossing and, above all, illuminating.'
Daily Telegraph

'So tangible at times that you can smell it, taste it and feel it.'
The Independent



Girl with the yellow star

Anne Frank's spirit will appeal to new generations of teenagers

■ THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK: THE CRITICAL EDITION
Prepared by the Netherlands State Institute for War Documentation
Viking, £25

■ ANNE FRANK, BEYOND THE DIARY
By Ruud van der Rol and Rian Verhoeven
Puffin, £6.99

HER future marked with a yellow star, she became an icon for the Holocaust. It is 46 years since Anne Frank's diary was published and 50 since she died at 15 in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

The publication of these books, which coincide with the "Anne Frank in the World" exhibition, do more than commemorate a grim chronology. To a generation for whom Anne Frank might have become a shadowy symbol, the diaries reveal a detailed picture of her development from a boisterous 13-year-old to a maturing 15-year-old which any modern teenager can recognise. Meanwhile, genocide, the avoidable humanitarian disaster which history repeats, is covered in both books by the inexorable drama of the historical and political events taking place.

As the editors of *The Critical Edition* make clear, Otto Frank's literary bequest was never as straightforward as its triumphal progress suggests. While in hiding Anne began editing her original diary, cutting and rewriting parts and making additions. Otto Frank, the only survivor of his family, made corrections using both the original and revised parts and leaving out entries that seemed unimportant or unsuitable. These included references to the changes in her body, painful clashes with her mother and the open discussions she had with the teenager with whom she began to fall in love.

Translations of the diary were not always faithful, and Otto Frank's postwar travail included attacks by critics who insisted that the diary was a fake as well as litigation concerning the Anne Frank stage play. In *The Critical Edition* deletions have been restored and the book contains almost all the diary texts, together with chapters on the Frank family background, their arrest and betrayal.

A record of exemplary clarity for ten to 14-year-olds is *Anne Frank, Beyond the Diary*. Containing poignant excerpts such as "In spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart", it captures the family's prewar life in black and white photos while giving a background to the Second World War and an outline of the circumstances in which respectable people were sent to concentration camps. Natural, lucid and often exuberant, Anne's free spirit reaches out to a new generation.

MAUREEN OWEN

● Anne Frank in the World *is at St Paul's, London, until May 1*

A digital revolution is round the corner

In ones and twos

■ BEING DIGITAL
By Nicholas Negroponte
Hodder & Stoughton, £12.99

BOARD up that letter box, send back your video rental card, rip the television aerial out of the loft and tell the paperboy thanks but no thanks. From tomorrow, or the day after at the very latest, every word, every picture that comes into your home will trickle in through a single cable, and the only thing the box will know is how to tell a zero from a one. For, with a handful of ones and a few dozen zeros you have the binary system, and with that system you have gone digital.

Of course we have already gone — if you will pardon the mixed numerical base — three-quarters digital: our computers and phones already speak to us and each other in ones and zeros, and Nicholas Negroponte tells of the glorious day when the arrangement of ones and zeros used in the digital world will take over from atoms lugged around by newspaper publishers, libraries and video stores. He tells of the integration of the digital world, of how everything — television, video, information, money, your family in Australia — will be rendered into bits and pushed along the wire onto your screen.

Negroponte is not just another future fantasist, either: as the director of the legendary Media Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology he was predicting what has already come to pass when it was seemingly unpredictable. If you doubt his word, there are heads of sane and sensible future-building corporations who listen intently to everything he has to say.

JOHN DIAMOND

The Times / Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	HEMINGWAY'S CHAIR	Michael Palin *(Methuen)*	£14.99	0	1
2	THE INFORMATION	Martin Amis *(HarperCollins)*	£15.99	3	2
3	SOPHIE'S WORLD	Jostein Gaarder *(Phoenix)*	£16.99	0	10
4	HIGH FIDELITY	Nick Hornby *(Gollancz)*	£14.99	0	1
5	THE BEST OF FRIENDS	Joanna Trollope *(Bloomsbury)*	£14.99	1	2
6	THE STATE WE'RE IN	Will Hutton *(Cape)*	£18.99	4	9
7	THE PRIVATE LIFE OF PLANTS	David Attenborough *(BBC)*	£17.99	6	12
8	ORSON WELLES	Simon Callow *(Cape)*	£20	0	1
9	BACK IN BUSINESS	Michael Barrymore *(Hutchinson)*	£14.99	0	1
10	A RUTHLESS NEED	Catherine Cookson *(Bantam)*	£5.99	2	5

PAPERBACK

1	THE FIST OF GOD	Frederick Forsyth *(Corgi)*	£5.99	3	9
2	A CHANGE OF CLIMATE	Hilary Mantel *(Penguin)*	£5.99	5	3
3	FLAVOURS OF INDIA	Madhur Jaffrey *(BBC)*	£12.99	12	3
4	THE HIPPOPOTAMUS	Stephen Fry *(Arrow)*	£5.99	2	4
5	A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME	Stephen Hawkins *(Bantam)*	£6.99	0	1
6	PLAYING FOR THE ASHES	Elizabeth George *(Bantam)*	£4.99	6	6
7	MISS SMILLA'S FEELING FOR SNOW	Peter Høeg *(Flamingo)*	£5.99	4	22
8	KOLYMSKY HEIGHTS	Lionel Davidson *(Mandarin)*	£4.99	0	1
9	A PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIR	Edwina Currie *(Coronet)*	£5.99	7	3
10	TOM CLANCY'S OP CENTRE	Tom Clancy *(HarperCollins)*	£4.99	0	1

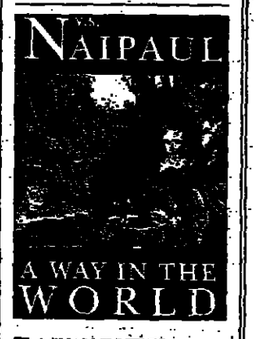
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NEW IN PAPERBACK

■ ORIGINAL SIN
By P.D. James
Faber, £8.99
P.D. James has fun biting the hand that feeds her in this meticulously plotted Adam Dalgliesh mystery set in a smart but ailing London publishing house. The apparent suicide of a senior editor is followed by a series of bizarre practical jokes which seem unrelated until the head of the firm, the arrogant womanising Gerard Etienne, is found dead in his office. After that corpses begin to appear thick and fast — most of them editors, one of them a temperamental woman author. Each of the complex, finely drawn characters has an excellent motive for murder, and as death extends its tentacles through the grand marble building, no one connected with the Peverell Press seems remotely safe or innocent.

■ FULL TILT
By Dervla Murphy
Flamingo, £6.99
In 1963, equipped with Nehru's *History of India* and Blake's poems, Murphy set off to cycle the 6,000-odd miles from Dunkirk to Delhi. This is her entrancing account of the journey, which took her through Persia, Afghanistan and over the Himalayas into Pakistan and India. By page 20 she has already been frostbitten, blown off her bike, attacked by wolves and very nearly raped — fortunately she had a gun. Yet despite such hair-raising adventures the people and the places she observes with such enjoyment take centre stage. Murphy is one of the last real travellers.

■ MARIE-ANTOINETTE
By Ian Dunlop
Phoenix, £12.99
This portrait admires the way Marie-Antoinette animated the phlegmatic Louis-Auguste, and her courage and composure in the last, dreadful weeks. Yet it is an essentially sober account of folly running towards doom. We see a queen who amused herself by throwing her companions' hats into a lake for the Duke of Northumberland to retrieve; who tripped about among mock peasant cottages at the Petit Trianon, regardless of the terrible poverty of the real peasants nearby.



■ A WAY IN THE WORLD
By V.S. Naipaul
Minerva, £6.99
It seems appropriate that Naipaul, an Indian born in Trinidad and university-educated at Oxford, should contemplate the themes of identity and displacement. *A Way in The World* is a many-layered portrait of individuals swept along by the vagaries of history. Splicing autobiography and anecdote, fact and fiction, it flicks back and forth through time and place, held together only tenuously by its authorial voice. But despite flashes of Naipaul's characteristic brilliance, as a whole it seems sloppily amorphous.

● *Nicki Household, Hazel Leslie, Mary Sullivan, Rachel Campbell-Johnson*

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هكذا من الاصل

Sptalfields market in London's East End has been around for more than 300 years, but never has there been so much to see, do and buy

It's a buyer's market



THINGS HAVE changed at Spitalfields in east London. Once "the most factious hamlet of all the Tower Division", then host to six of Jack the Ripper's gruesome murders, Spitalfields, until recently, housed the largest fruit and vegetable market in Britain. Established in 1682, the market was revitalised in the 1920s wen the City Corporation spent ore than £2 million refurbishing th premises in Commercial Street.

In 1991 the fruit and vegetables ere relocated to Temple Mills, altham Forest. Now the cavern-as market hall houses a very fferent breed of trader to those ho used to sell French cherries nd Jersey potatoes and, although e old flower market on the other ide of the road (which had recently een used as a warehouse) was estroyed by a fire last month, the ew Spitalfields market is alive nd flourishing.

The stalls which crowd together at the eastern end of the market on Sundays sell everything from bric-a-brac to intricate hand-embroidered bedspreads costing more than £100. One is heaped high with loaves of organic olive and pumpkin, sundried tomato, wholewheat or sourdough bread (£1-1.50 per loaf). Others offer organic vegetables or meat, brought to market and sold by the farmers who roduce them. Trays of freshly aked almond or cheese croissants (5p each) line one table, while near t are jars of home-made marmalade (£1.50) and West Country cold ressed honey (£1.60).

Many traders have been there ince the new market opened in pril 1992. Others, like Rachel ann, a metalsmith from Penn oft Forge in Hampshire, rent ills on an occasional basis. Ms ann's stall is scattered with ntricate scrolled candlesticks (£6-5) and ceramic pots (from £6) ade by her father. She makes arger items such as wrought-iron rinches and bedsteads (around 100) on commission.

Other stalls sell soft-coloured hand-painted silk scarves for £20-£30; candles in all shapes, colours, sizes and smells; T-shirts sporting PC slogans (£8.90 each); custom-made cloche hats (£10-£15), and brightly coloured wooden toys (from 95p).

It is the booths selling cooked food which really give the contemporary market its atmosphere. Keir Helberg, an American showman in a straw top hat, exhorts customers to sample corn-fed French chicken (£3.95 per portion) or wild boar and apple sausages (£3.05 per portion) at Bubba's Pit BBQ. The air is filled with the smell of falafel, organic Tunisian cuisine or spicy Mexican dishes. There are bagels and salt beef at the Deli diner or Hawaiian dishes at Pacific Paradise.



DURING the week, City of London workers visit the food stalls and the Victorian Oven. Once a barn of a shop, it has been refurbished into a comfortable wood-panelled restaurant. Customers dine on wild salmon or roast beef to the accompaniment of two cellists and a violinist. A three-course lunch costs £14.95. Main courses in the café outside start from £2.50.

On Sundays the market attracts young families to the bustle and fairground attractions in the centre of the hall. Old-fashioned roundabouts moving at a sedate pace, delight small children. There is also a large pen filled with animals — goats, lambs and a well-fed donkey called Lindsey — all from Stepping Stones Farm in Stepney.

Alan Lyndley, a palmist, sits in the centre of the hall preparing astrological charts or using Tarot cards or runes to "help guide people through the turmoils of life".

The market is flanked by shops open during the week as well as Sundays selling hand-woven rugs, cushions, papier-mâché animals, glass bowls and ornaments. The Magpie Bookshop has second-hand paperbacks (from 45p), collectable books (up to £100) and comics, and offers a free book-search service for out-of-print titles. Gifts of Nature sells a mixture of potpourri (50p per scoop), dried flowers (natural grasses at £2.50 a bunch, exotic flowers such as lotus heads or sunflowers £6.25 a bunch), fruit-scented soaps from 75p, and essential body oils costing £1.50-£6.50.

Leigh Farm Shop, at the main entrance to the market, has a range of cheeses which, apart from a creamy white and blue Mountain Gorgonzola (£5.65 per lb), a Roquefort Societé (£8.40 per lb), and a two-year-old Reggiano Parmesan (£7.25 per lb), are mostly organic and English. These are old-fashioned, unpasteurised farmhouse cheeses seldom seen on a supermarket shelf and include a mature organic cheddar (£4.30 per lb) and a Windsor Red cheddar with elderberry wine (£4.25 per lb). The shop also sells organic pork, lamb, beef, poultry and vegetables, some produced at Leigh Farm in Devon.



SPITALFIELDS is continually evolving. Spitalfields Pool, covered by a semi-transparent rounded roof, has opened just outside the main market complex. Inside, a third of the three-acre market hall is now occupied by indoor sports facilities including tennis, badminton, ricochet, five-a-side football and cricket nets. A fitness gym is at the planning stage and an Arts Club and Community Leisure Centre will open in May.

Spitalfields Market Opera is under construction and the first performance is planned for May 20. The opera house, with 480 seats, will provide a small-scale venue for touring companies from the UK and Europe. Funds have been raised through the Foundation of Sports and the Arts and by selling seats to patrons, including the Prince of Wales.

Spitalfields is, according to Eric Reynolds, the market's director, a place where the prosperity of the City blends with the East-End market culture. "Here in Tower Hamlets there isn't even a cinema," he says. "At Spitalfields we have been able to fill in a few gaps."

SARA DRIVER

- *Spitalfields is at the corner of Commercial Street and Brushfield Street, London E1, three minutes walk from Liverpool Street station.*
- *The shops and some stalls are open 10am-4pm Mon-Fri. The main market is open 9am-4pm Sundays. Spitalfields Market is closed on Saturdays. For further information call 0171-247 6590.*
- *Spitalfields Pool: 7am-9pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sun (0171-247 6602).*
- *Market Sports: Mon-Fri 8am-10pm, Sun 9am-5pm (0171-377 1300).*
- *Leigh Farm Shop, 103a Commercial Street, London E1 6BG (0171-377 8909).*

Spitalfields Programme for 1995 includes:

April 23: The Big Birthday Party celebrating the 3rd anniversary of the regeneration of the Old Spitalfields Market.

May 7: Spitalfields Dog Show. Champion event for local dogs

July 23: The Spitalfields Community Festival. Multicultural celebration with music, dance, poetry and plays performed by local groups.

October 8, 9: Eastside Bookfair, with books for children of all ages, storytelling, games and events.

October 22: Shakespeare in Spitalfields.

All events organised by Alternative Arts. Telephone 0171-375 0441 for further information.



Lindsey the donkey

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Thriving: Spitalfields Market was established in 1682

BRITISH MARKETS

BRITAIN still has a wealth of diverse markets around the country, some outdoors, some covered and many steeped in history.

St Nicholas Markets, Bristol (0117 9224017): Mon-Sat
The four markets date back to the 18th century. The Exchange Market, the Covered Market, the Glass Arcade and the Brass Nails sell specialist goods, crafts, antiques and food.

***Grainger Market*, Newcastle (0191-232 8520 ex 5542): Mon-Sat**
Nineteenth-century market in the city centre with more than 250 stalls. Diverse outlets include tripe shops, a milliners and the smallest, oldest branch of M&S.

Oxford Market (01865 252136): Mon-Sat
More than 50 traders include traditional butchers selling game birds and venison, fishmongers offering wild salmon or whole tuna and a cheese emporium.

Newgate Market, York (01904 551355): open seven days a week
Around 115 stalls line the market square. A general retail market selling anything from books to fruit to shoes.

Norwich Market (01603 212414): Mon-Sat
Mentioned in the *Domesday Book* and granted a charter in 1341, this is one of Britain's largest open-air markets with more than 200 stalls selling everything from flowers to food, clothes and toys.

Merton Abbey Mills Craft Village, Wimbledon, London (0181-543 9608): crafts market Sat-Sun
One of Britain's newest, this weekend craft market was created in 1989 on the historic site of the Liberty silk printing works, and boasts a working Victorian waterwheel. Twenty permanent shops are joined at weekends by stalls selling handmade goods, ethnic foods, antiques, fabrics and exotic herbs.

***Pontypridd Market* (01443 406784): indoor market open every day; outside market Wed and Sat only**
Established more than 150 years ago, the 150 market-hall traders sell fresh produce, while an additional 150 stall holders in the outdoor market offer bread, cakes, jewellery and crafts.

Kirkgate Market, Leeds (0113 2476948): Mon-Sat
Recently given an £8m facelift, Kirkgate is the birthplace of the original Marks & Spencer Penny Bazaar. The famous Edwardian market hall houses more than 300 stalls, including a traditional pie and pea stall, a herbalist and Game Row which sells local produce.

Byzantium, Victoria Street, Edinburgh: Tues-Sat
A tiny market in an old church with a soaring vaulted roof. Stained glass, old prints, traditional Scottish crafts and period clothes are all on sale.

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A crusade is underway to bring a traditional fishing craft back to Britain's rivers

Vision of a coracle armada

When Tim Oakes drifts in his coracle down the River Wye in Gloucestershire he has a vision: of an armada of small, squat, pitch-covered, one-man coracles covering the width of the river and putting to flight the approaching army of bobbing, multi-coloured glass fibre canoes.

His crusade is to reintroduce the traditional Wye coracle, a craft which, he says, "is to the modern canoe what a horse and cart is to a Metro."

"It has many things a canoe doesn't have. You are open to the elements and far less enclosed, which I like," says Mr Oakes, 34, a music writer and broadcaster.

The coracle is also an ideal craft from which to observe wildlife. Herons continue fishing unperturbed as it drifts by, and the craft's flat, black bottom means that it is almost invisible under water, and does not scare away the fish.

"The coracle is a working vessel, rather than one built for sport," Mr Oakes says. Along the Wye, thousands were made as fishing craft, and for transporting people and goods across the river. It is also a practical boat: the draft is only about 5in when you are sitting upright. This means that a coracle can often get to shallow parts of the river that can't be reached by canoe."

The Wye coracle was almost a thing of the imagination when Mr Oakes began his search, in 1990, to discover what the original looked like. He knew that these traditional craft had been widely used on the river until the turn of the century. Then, in the early 1900s, the river bank rights were gradually changed — removing fishing rights for the public — and the coracle was effectively outmoded.

To help him with his research, Mr Oakes consulted the Coracle Society, which is dedicated to reintroducing them on all the rivers, mainly in the west of England, where they were once common.

By interviewing elderly people living near the Wye, in the Gloucestershire village of Lydbrook, where he lives, Mr Oakes established that the craft were built by a local man, William Drew, at the village of Kerne Bridge. All traces of Drew's coracle workshop had long vanished, but Mr Oakes obtained a photograph, dated 1900, of Drew with one on his back. From this, he reconstructed what he had learnt from hearsay: a coracle with a shape totally different to the Ironbridge style, the type most commonly made today.

ADRIAN SHERRATT/SWNS



Tim Oakes with one of the easy-to-handle coracles he is reintroducing to the River Wye in Gloucestershire

"The Ironbridge coracle is just a shallow saucer sitting on the water, and is less stable than the flat-bottomed Wye coracle, which, by contrast, has a squared end, serving as the bow," Mr Oakes says. "Very little of this flat end is in the water so there is less resistance to impede travel, and the square shape of the vessel helps it withstand changing wind and river conditions."

Over the past three years, Mr Oakes has made ten craft and sold two. He charges between £200 and £300, depending on the style of paddle and refinements. The framework is of sawn ash laths, as in the Ironbridge coracles, but while the laths in the Ironbridge are curved by soaking in water, those of the Wye coracle are bent at right angles by hours of steaming. The frame is covered with bleached calico, which is then painted with tar and bitumen.

"The Wye coracle is one of the more difficult styles to reconstruct," says Peter Badge, chairman of the Coracle Society, who has 20 different types. He and his society have been instrumental in establishing the small museum at Cenarth on the Teifi in west Wales, the home of coracle fishing.

These days, several coracle fishermen can be seen with nets in the Teifi's tidal waters, and also on the Welsh rivers Towy and Taff. But, an increase in the fishing licence fee for these rivers to £389 per year, imposed recently by the National Rivers Authority, threatens their continued existence.

On the Wye, however, Mr Oakes is confident that coracle fishing can be reintroduced. "The fish stocks are getting so depleted that anglers will have to find new ways to reach unknown sections of the river," he says.

"We know that rod fishermen caught salmon from coracles at the turn of the century. And the great joy of a coracle is that you can take it anywhere. The average car can easily carry one on a roof rack, as they weigh only 30lb."

Mr Oakes says that among the rediscoveries is a two-man craft once used on the upper Dee, near Llangollen. Another enthusiast has introduced a new style of coracle on to the River Teme in Shropshire.

"The fun in all this is not only in producing replicas of long-forgotten styles," Mr Oakes says, "but in finding out more about this tradition which was a part of life on rivers throughout Wales and the border counties."

CLIVE FEWINS

● *Tim Oakes, Rosewood House, Lydbrook, Gloucestershire GL17 9SA. The Coracle Society, c/o John Williams-Davies, Welsh Folk Museum, St Fagans, Cardiff CF5 6XB (01222 569441). Regular courses in coracle building are held at the Woodland Skills Centre, the Church Hall, Llanafan Fawr, Builth Wells, Powys LD2 3SH (01597 860469), and the Greenwood Trust, Station Road, Coalbrookdale, Telford, Shropshire TF8 7DR (01952 432769).*

The joy of sects

On this most religious of weekends, my mind has come to rest on spiritual matters. Blame the new neighbours. Although the news hit the headlines only a couple of weeks ago, it has been common knowledge round this part of Suffolk for some time that a huge chunk of land, 2,000 acres, has been bought by the Mormon Church.

The land is only a short stroll from this farm and it was our horseman, Derek, who broke the news of the sale to me. He was having his leg pulled by some mates, who swore blind to him that Mormons did not believe in tractors and would be looking for horses and horsemen to work the land. The discussion went as far as to speculate where sufficient working horses might be found.

We now know, of course, that Derek's mates must have been thinking of the Amish sect, which is something else altogether, and that the Mormons' principal interest in buying the land is to make secular profits. The nearest they'll actually ever get to the land will be when they sign the contract.

But being curious, and somewhat ignorant of the fine print of the Mormon beliefs (all I remembered was Donny and Marie Osmond), I looked them up.

I discovered that the Mormons often undertook work on welfare farms or other projects to produce items for the poor. But, alas, not on this new farm. It will still be farmed in the worldly and intensive way that is the norm round here. A little welfare-centred, extensive farming would have been welcome. Pity.

Perhaps the new neighbours on the other side will be more of a force for good. The nearby Bentwaters American air force base has been sold off by the Ministry of Defence to no less than the Natural Law Party. This party believes that stress is the root of all evil. Now you're talking!

The party could have something to say to a farmer who has hardly recovered from lambing and finds that the burden of spring cultivations, fence-mending and yard clearing is about to bear down upon him. If the Natural Law Party has a solution to stress of that kind, then I'm with them all the way.



FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

Unfortunately, I cannot quite bring myself to tell Derek about this particular lot. Yogic flying can cure all the ills of modern society, my source said, recalling television pictures of the cross-legged bouncing that has become the Natural Law Party's trademark. I daren't ask old Dilly to try it either, not with his legs. Nor must the livestock get to hear of this: we must not let the already transcendental pigs get the idea that they really might fly. And we must drill mangelwurzels shortly, and you can't get mangel sown by leaping around the place on your bottom.

In truth, all farming is a plodding business and doing it in jumps never got anybody anywhere. No, I do not think there is much to be gained from the Natural Law Party.

Perhaps I will have to keep up with my new neighbours by founding my own sect. It could be a bit like the Quivering Brethren, as depicted in *Cold Comfort Farm*. Farmers are always quivering about something — the weather, subsidies or the Government — and to have somewhere to go and quiver together might be rather comforting.

Perhaps I should be converting the barn into some kind of chapel, thereby qualifying for a cash handout under the farm-diversification scheme.

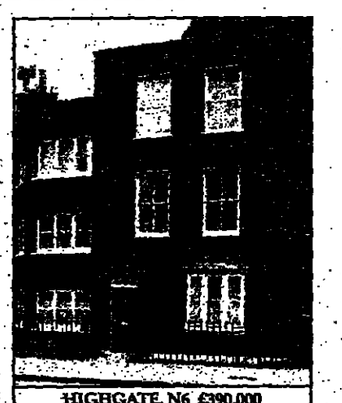
Our creed would take some thinking about. If we were to base it on the Ten Commandments there would certainly have to be room for flexibility. I can honestly swear that I have never coveted my neighbour's ass, but when my feet have been sore and the ground sodden and the horse-drawn ploughing has been going very slowly, I have certainly coveted his big red tractor.

I have not always kept holy the Sabbath day, because that's the only day that Derek is usually free. And, as for taking names in vain, I have to confess it is a daily if not hourly occurrence.

Perhaps there is a sect which believes that you reach Heaven only by first living through purgatory here on Earth. If so, I think I must already be a fully paid-up member.



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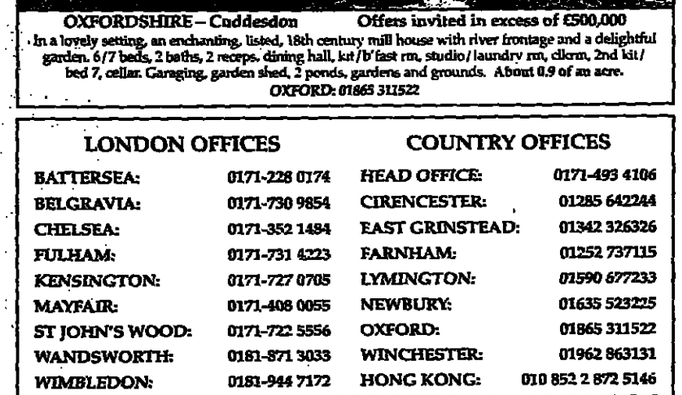


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Price Guide: £200/225,000
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EXOTIC ISLANDS: Setting sail for untouched Aldabra, plus a warm welcome in the South Pacific

The ultimate island getaway

For those who love visiting the untouched corners of the world, Aldabra is the ultimate goal. Some 700 miles south of Mahé in the Seychelles and 200 miles north of Madagascar, there is no airstrip, no dock, no hotel, very few inhabitants and a quantity of sharks. When we anchored off the reef, we were the first ship the residents had seen in four months.

Aldabra is the world's largest coral atoll and a World Heritage site. It contains the largest population of giant tortoises, unique bird life such as the flightless rail, which is extinct elsewhere, vast nesting colonies of frigate birds and boobies, the Aldabra lagoon, an untouched coral reef, green and hawksbill turtles and, best of all, the feeling that this is a place where civilization has hardly established a toehold.

Jacques Cousteau said that Aldabra was "the last unprofaned sanctuary on this planet", and Sir Julian Huxley claimed it was "a living natural history museum". Some people describe Aldabra as the "Galapagos of the Indian Ocean", but that comparison won't do: 60,000 people now visit the Galapagos every year; fewer than 2,000 lucky souls visit Aldabra. With all that in its favour, I could hardly wait to get there.

The expedition cruise ship *Caledonian Star* carries only 100 passengers and sails to the remoter parts of the world. She has a dozen Zodiac rubber dinghies to put passengers ashore, and augments the crew with a lecture staff of ornithologists and marine biologists.

To join the ship you fly to Mahé in the Seychelles. From Mahé we sailed south, launching the Zodiacs to land on some of the other islands en route, like Curieuse, Cousin, Aride and Desroches. The islands of the Seychelles, though best known for honeymoons, are also a paradise for birdwatchers, and getting ashore was always worth it for the colonies of fairy terns, the brush warblers and the magpie robins.

Once underway we had lectures on Aldabra and the wildlife we might see, and from time to time we rushed up on deck to see whales or turtles or flotillas of spinner dolphins. Three days after leaving Mahé we anchored off Aldabra.

Two sharks were circling lazily round the ship just after dawn, but they had disappeared when we set off for a landing on Picard, one of several coral islands which make up the Aldabra reef. We were met by the entire population, ten in all, most of whom are engaged in protecting the local wildlife, and two American hunters who are attempting to cull the thriving population of feral goats which compete with the giant tortoises for the scanty island grazing.



Entranced by the tree-climbing robber crab on the island of Aldabra

Aldabra contains around 150,000 giant tortoises and those on Picard are the largest, some the size of wheel-barrows. Another, more alarming, resident is the robber crab, which can reach 3ft across between the claws, and climbs trees. We spent the morning on Picard; then sailed for Grande Terre, the largest coral island of the reef.

The surf was up and we had wet landings when we went ashore that afternoon, but the sights on shore were amazing. The sun was sinking, and the island was crawling with giant tortoises, hundreds of them, emerging for an evening graze. We saw green turtles and green turtle nests, and had an exciting time bucking out through the surf on our way back to the ship. That night the crew threw a party but we were back on deck at dawn, ready for the highlight of our visit, a cruise in the Aldabra lagoon.

The lagoon is not very deep and is scoured twice a day by the 12-knot tide. Keen snorkellers can slip overboard at the channel entrance and be swept in, "sharing an exhilarating ride with the fish and sharks", it says in the guidebook, but there was no enthusiasm for heroics. That morning the 60sq m lagoon was a sea of tranquility.

The water is crystal clear and only 10ft deep, so the fish and the black shapes of the eagle rays stood out clearly as they swept in squadrons underneath the boat. Here and there, a white-tipped reef shark slid away from the shadow of the dinghy.

The tide has eroded many of the coral rocks in the lagoon, shaping them into gigantic jagged umbrellas which the local people call "champignons", while around the mangrove-draped shores and in the sky overhead, great colonies of frigate birds and red-footed boobies wheel and dive and nest and mate, the male frigate birds displaying their bright red posing pouches to the females.

Sometime in mid morning we went ashore on Polymnie island where, within minutes, we found the flightless rail, the last surviving flightless bird in the Indian Ocean, pecking about on the beach. Then the tide turned and it was time to head out to sea.

We spent three days around Aldabra. From the main atoll we sailed to the island of Astove where, according to taste, we went scuba-diving or snorkelling or glass-bottomed boating on the untouched coral reef. We saw dolphins and turtles and whales, and a great quantity of birds but, best of all, we saw one place on this planet that tourism has not yet spoiled.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

● *The author was a guest of Noble Caledonia, 11 Charles St, London W1X 7HA (0171-491 4752). The Caledonian Star makes several visits to Aldabra every year, the next two in November 1995. Prices for a two-berth cabin start at £2,200 including hotel accommodation on Mahé and return flights from London.*

● *Other islands can be visited with many tour operators, including British Airways Holidays (01293 611611).*

● *The Seychelles Tourist Office, 111 Baker St, London W1M 1FE (0171-224 1670).*

Tropical taste of the South Seas

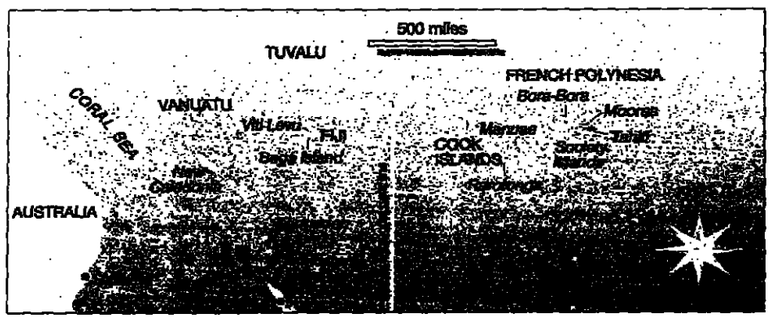
"The first newspaper published in the world today," blazed the masthead of the *Fiji Times*, reminding me that my 25-hour flight had whisked me 12 hours ahead of GMT, losing a day en route from Britain.

It wasn't long before I began dreamily combing the newspaper's "Land for Sale" column. Viti Levu, the largest of Fiji's 300 islands, is a blend of rainforest, mountains, sugar cane fields, orchid-filled plots and white sandy beaches fringed by coconut palms. Garden, jungle and aquarium are combined here in a safe, happy haven.

Red hibiscus and pale, sweet-smelling frangipani colour the lush landscape. Perhaps it's this flower power which makes Fijians so hospitable. The international buzzword is *Bula* ("Hello, Welcome"), although everyone I met spoke English, a reminder that the republic was a British colony until 1970.

I stayed on Fiji's sunnier, drier west side, at Shangri-La's resort on Yanuca island. It's not surprising that some guests never leave the resort until they head for Nadi airport. The landscaped gardens, surrounded by coral reef and connected by a causeway to the mainland, embrace two pools, a nine-hole golf course designed by Peter Thompson, a three-hole beginners' golf course, tennis courts, bowling green and gym, jet-skiing, scuba diving, snorkelling, windsurfing and water-skiing.

It would be a shame to ignore Fiji's fascinating cultural heritage. Village life remains the foundation of society and the dignified pride of its people comes across in their respect for tradition and unusually direct eye-contact.



I joined a small group of visitors on a trip in a narrow wooden skiff along the river Naua to Namuamua, where the village chief, clad in a grass skirt, welcomed us inside a thatched *bure* (home). From a ceremonial bowl we drank *yagona*, the soapy-tasting, non-alcoholic national grog which makes your tongue go numb. Then we were invited to finger-feast on sweet potato, spinach in coconut milk, beef patties, mango and bananas. The villagers sang traditional songs to strumming guitars and we danced.

The communal dancing, singing and chanting (*meke*), which ensures that Fijian stories, legends and culture endure, is performed for visiting guests in certain villages and hotels. To accompany a *meke*, a traditional Fijian feast is prepared in an underground oven in which food is wrapped in banana leaves and placed on smouldering rocks, ignited by rubbing together hibiscus branches. Red-hot rocks are also used by members of the Sawau tribe from Bega island for their extraordinary fire-walking performances.

From Fiji, I flew to Rarotonga in the Cook Islands, gaining an extra day by crossing the international date line. We stopped off at Rarotongan Breweries to witness, and sample, the 2,400 litre daily production of Cook's Lager, as well as visiting Arai Te Tonga, a sacred meeting place where sacrifices were once offered to the gods. Like the Fijians, Cook Islanders were cannibals in pre-missionary days.

Tiny Rarotonga supports 12,000 islanders through tourism — 55,000 visitors a year — and subsistence farming. Apart from its friendly people, the island's best assets are natural. Pale blue lagoon water stretches to the reef's edge, where bleach-white surf roars. Mountain slopes are lush with tropical fruit and flowers.

The pace of life on Rarotonga is leisurely to the point of barely ticking over. Cook islanders go about their business with an easy gait and ready smile. Even the bus tickets say "Please smile". Tourism is still low-key, so there's a pleasantly eccentric aspect about arrangements. The tour bus arrives on time, complete with a bucketful of courgettes picked by the driver.

Arorangi Cultural Village, a manicured tourist complex located in nine thatched huts, offers an insight into traditional ways of cooking, mat-weaving, fishing, herbal medicines and grass skirt-making. Here we learned to say *Kia orana* — the Maori equivalent of *Bula* — and plait a *pandanus* (palm frond) mat.

At the pleasantly old-fashioned Rarotongan hotel, the balmy night air is filled with the twanging of ukeleles and an infectiously happy drumbeat on "Island Night". Following the *umu* (underground oven) feast, sultry goddesses in floral leis sashay the hula, while tawny gods, clad in grass skirts, respond with an energetic leg-shaking dance.

The four-hour cross-island walk is also a strenuous leg-shaker, but worth the effort. My guide was Moko, who nipped up the 1,355ft hills in thongs (visitors should wear trainers) and hovered patiently as I laboured up sheer slopes through labyrinthine tree roots to reach the Needle, a volcanic rock equidistant between the shores, whose profile resembles a *tiki* (god).

The Cook Islands are named after the explorer, Captain James Cook, who sighted Manuae (Hervey Island) in 1773. But the first settlers were Polynesians, who arrived around 800 AD.

From Rarotonga I flew to Tahiti, where I stayed in the Beachcomber Parkroyal, the island's top hotel, about a mile from the airport and a bus-stop from Papeete, French Polynesia's main port. Like its sister hotels on the nearby atolls of Moorea and Bora-Bora, this wonderful chunk of God's real estate has thatched, stilted bungalows from which a ladder descends directly into the lagoon. For those who prefer the freshwater pool, there's a swim-up bar, with half-submerged stone stools for simultaneous internal and external refreshment.

Unlike most of Tahiti's beaches, which are black sand, the Beachcomber has a private stretch of pure white sand, while its watersports pavilion offers snorkelling, canoe trips, scuba diving, windsurfing, water-skiing and sunset cruises.

Beware of surprise Tahitian price tags. Because the island exports so little, the Government slaps huge import taxes on most consumables. Hotel mini-bar beers costs £4 and my circular island tour in a private taxi cost CFP14,000 (about £100), although this can be split between four people.

If Gauguin was disappointed in 1891 at what little remained of Tahitian native art and culture, imagine what today's unsuspecting visitors feel when they arrive in car-clogged Papeete.

Most of the island's "sights" can be seen in a couple of days, and Tahiti is best used as a stopover en route to other islands, such as fertile Moorea, 12 miles by ferry, or Bora-Bora, reached by a 45-minute flight.

The Bora-Bora Lagoon Resort ranks as the most romantic place I have ever stayed. The hotel perches on an offshore *motu* (islet) and comprises over-water and beach-side thatched bungalows built in traditional Polynesian style. They have luxury bathrooms and private verandahs from which to clamber into the crystal-clear lagoon. Through a sliding glass-topped coffee table you can feed fish so brightly coloured they look painted: green and red parrot fish, tiny purple Angel fish, yellow and black stripy "sergeant majors".

I joined a shark-feeding trip run by Motai, a native Bora-Boran. We snorkelled in the lagoon within inches of the grey 4ft-long baby reef sharks as he tossed them meaty chunks. Then we repeated the performance among flabby, flat 3ft-wide stingrays. Once my initial alarm had subsided, I relished this close encounter as a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

That evening I lay in a hammock and watched the wide sky blaze orange, red, pink and gold, burnishing the blue lagoon until it became a sea of fire. It was a typical South Pacific sunset and as sensual and seductive as all other aspects of these islands.

NICOLE SWENGLEY

IMAGES



An idyllic retreat on the Tahitian island of Bora-Bora, where coconut palms stand tall and the pace of life is gentle

South Seas: fact file

☐ The author was a guest of *British Airways Holidays, Air New Zealand and Air Tahiti.*

☐ A tailor-made trip including *four nights in Fiji, four nights in Rarotonga, three nights in Tahiti and four nights in Bora Bora* costs from £2,663 per person sharing on a room-only basis, including flights by Air New Zealand and Air Tahiti and transfers. For details of British Airways Holidays' tailor-made itineraries in the South Pacific, call 01293 611361.

☐ For more information about the islands, call the Tourism Council of the South Pacific on 0181-392 1838.

☐ When to go: May-October (winter) is drier and slightly cooler (20-30C); November-April (summer) is wetter and more humid (25-35C).

☐ What to read: Lonely Planet's *Fiji* and *Tahiti & French Polynesia*, both £7.95, are excellent guides.

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BANK HOLIDAY: From puppet shows to nature trails, a nationwide guide to what's on and where



PHIL MARSH

Left to right: enjoy a ride on a steam train at the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre in Aylesbury; stage make-up classes at the Theatre Museum in London; take part in a kite festival on Blackheath Common in southeast London

Outings for all the family

LONDON

Costume workshops: with props from *The Wind in the Willows*. *Theatre Museum, 1E Tavistock Street, WC2 (0171-836 7891). Today, tomorrow, and Monday at 12.30pm and 2.30. Adults £3; children £1.50.*

Stage make-up: masterclasses for five to 21-year-olds. *At the address above on April 19 at 3pm and 5.30pm. Adults £3; children £1.50.*

Kite festival: parachuting teddy bears, stunt kites, fighting fires, and kite trains. *Blackheath Common, SE3 (0171-836 1666). Sunday and Monday from 11am. Free.*

Activity week at Hampton Court Palace: storytelling, family trails and egg hunts. *Hampton Court Palace, Hampton Court (0181-781 9500). Until April 23. Ring for details. Adults £7.50; children £4.70; family £19.30.*

Snakes and ladders: TV's *Biker Mice from Mars* are opening this new adventure playground today. *Syon Park, Brentford, Middlesex (0181-847 0946). Today, tomorrow and daily from 10am-8pm. Under-fives £3.25 (weekends/schoolholidays) or £2.65; over-fives £4.25 (or £3.65).*

Dance: learn West End musical steps or the flamenco. *South Bank Centre SE1 (0171-928 8800). April 21-23 from 2pm. Free.*

Rod, Jane and Freddy: new show with songs and music. *Polka Theatre for Children, 240 The Broadway, London SW19 (0181-543 4888). Today, at 2pm and 5pm. Adults and children £6.*

Fireman Sam Saves the Day: new stage production for three to eight-year-olds. *Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (0171-713 6000). April 19-23. Times vary. Adults from £5; children from £4.*

Easter activities: magic, face-painting, juggling, and competitions. *Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1 (0171-629 1234). Today and tomorrow from 9am. All events free except face-painting (75p-£2.50).*

BEDFORDSHIRE

American Civil War: re-enactments by the Southern Skirmish Association. *Knebworth Park, Stevenage (01438 812661). Tomorrow and Monday from 11am. Adults and children £3.50.*

BERKSHIRE

Dragon Hunt: Easter fair with pony and trap rides, bouncy castle and children's entertainment. *The Look Out Countryside and Heritage Centre, Nine Mile Ride, Bracknell (01344 868222). Tomorrow and Monday from 10am. Free.*

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Meet a host of cartoon characters: train rides, fairground organs and free chocolate gift for children. *Buckinghamshire Railway Centre, Quainton, near Aylesbury (01296 655720). Sunday and Monday from 10am. Adults £4.50; children £3; under-fours free.*

CHESHIRE

Unbelieva-bubble workshops: make soap, learn the science behind bubbles and make your own giant version. *Catalyst, the Museum of the Chemical Industry, Gossage Building, Mersey Road, Widnes (0151-420 1121). April 18-19 at 11.30am and 2pm. Adults £3.75; children £3.*

CUMBRIA

Easter bonnet competition: enter a poetry competition, plus replica toys from Wordsworth's era. *Wordsworth House, Main Street, Cockermouth (01900 824805) Monday from 11am (competition 3-4pm). Adults £2.40; children £1.20.*

Hunt in the park: search for painted Easter eggs. *Fallfoot Country Park, Newby Bridge (015394 35599). Today from 11am. Car park fee only £2.50.*

DEVON

Zoo trail: to the Easter egg mine, and Easter bonnet competition. *Paignton Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Totnes Road, Paignton (01803 557479). Tomorrow and Monday from 10am (bonnet competition tomorrow at 2pm). Adults £5.95; children £3.50; family (two plus two) £16.50.*

DORSET

Treasure hunt: and easter egg decorating. *The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' Lake Reserve, Weymouth (01305 778313). Tomorrow, 10am. Book in advance. Adults £2; children £1.*

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Roses and castles: learn about the designs on canal boats. *National Waterways Museum, Llanthony Warehouse, Gloucester (01452 318054). Today, tomorrow and every day next week, 10am-6pm. Adults £4.25; children £3.25; family (two children) £9.95.*

Puppet workshops: Easter bunny show, and holiday entertainment for four to 12-year-olds. *Cheltenham Town Hall, Imperial Square, Cheltenham (01242 227979). April 18-21. Times vary. Children £2-£5 depending on activity. Some facilities for the disabled.*

GREATER MANCHESTER

Easter fair: traditional rides. *Hollingworth Lake Country Park, Rakewood Road, Littleborough (01706 373421). Today, tomorrow until April 22. From midday. Free. Some facilities for the disabled.*

HAMPSHIRE

Meet Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends. *Alresford Station, Alresford (01962 733810). Until April 23, from 10am. Adults £7.50; children £4.50.*



Fireman Sam Saves the Day at Sadler's Wells in London

HEREFORD & WORCESTER

Cider-making: a two-day event in which exhibits like dip sticks and pulp presses are taken out of their cabinets so children (and adults) can see how they work. *Cider Museum & King Offa Distillery, Hereford (01432 354207). Today and tomorrow 10am-5.30pm. Adults £2; children £1.50. Limited facilities for the disabled.*

Fairground rides: showmen's wagons, miniature train and demonstrations of blacksmithing, chainmaking, woodturning. *Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove (01527 831363). Today, tomorrow and Monday 10.30am-5pm. Adults £3.50; children £1.75; family £9.40 (two adults and three children).*

KENT

Easter bunny hunt: find the rabbits hidden around the farm. *South of England Rare Breeds Centre, Woodchurch, Ashford (01233 861493). Tomorrow and Monday from 11am. Adults £3.25; children £1.25.*

Meet the Mad Hatter: plus magic show, Punch and Judy, wagon rides and face-painting. *The Historic Dockyard, Chatham (01634 812551). Tomorrow and Monday from 10am. Adults £5.60; children £3.60.*

LANCASHIRE

Maritime festival: shantyman songs; learn how a ship gets into a bottle; knot tying demonstrations, storytelling and nautical dramas. *Lancaster Maritime Museum, St George's Quay (01524 32878/64637). Today, tomorrow and Monday from 11am. Telephone first for disabled access.*

NORTHUMBERLAND

Boolin 'n' jarpin: (a traditional game), egg decorating and treasure hunt. Bring hard-boiled eggs. *Plessey Woods Country Park, Shields Road, Bedlington (01670 824793). Tomorrow at 10am. Adults free; children 75p.*

Egg and spoon races: bring two hard-boiled eggs. Plus treasure hunts *Bolam Lake Country Park, Belsay (01661 881234). Today at 11.30am. Adults free; children 75p.*

SCOTLAND

Teethmarks and trails: discover the signs of the animals that live in the forest. *Glentress Forest near Peebles (01835 830281). Tomorrow at 2pm. Free. Limited disabled access.*

Treasure trail: hunt for the giant Easter curlew. *The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Reserve, Largs Road, Lochwinnoch (01505 842663). Tomorrow at 11am. Children 50p; accompanying adults free.*

STAFFORDSHIRE

Alice in Wonderland: children's quiz; Mad Hatter's Tea Party, egg blowing and hunt-the-egg. *Tamworth Castle and Museum, Tamworth (01827 63563). Tomorrow from 2pm, Monday from 10am. Adults £3; children £1.50.*

Holiday workshops: make a sticky finger collage with glue and paints and decorate eggs. *Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton upon Trent (01283 5677 20). Until Tuesday. Times vary. Children £2.50.*

SUFFOLK

Easter egg hunt quiz: plus watch 100 Tudors (dressed up) recreating the everyday life on a great estate. *Kentwell Hall, Long Melford (01787 310207). Until April 17, from 11am. Adults £6; children £3.50.*

SUSSEX

International youth festival: music and dance groups. *Various venues and times in West Sussex (0171-401 9941). Prices vary. Some disabled access.*

WALES

Children's easter egg hunt: open-air fun. *Llancaiach Fawr Living History Museum, Nelson, Trehorris, Mid-Glamorgan (01443 412248). Tomorrow from 10am. Children 50p. Telephone first for disabled access.*

Easter bunny steam special: rabbit hands out chocolate eggs. *Swansea Vale Railway, Nantyffin Road, Llansamlet, Near Second City, Swansea (01792 653615) Until Monday. 11am-5pm. Adults £1.80; children £2.*

Easter madness: easter bunnies and a treasure hunt. *Bodelwyddan Castle, near Abergele, Clwyd (01745 584060) Sunday and Monday, from 10am onwards. Adults £4; children £2.50.*

WILTSHIRE

Treasure hunt: plus quiz in the Tudor kitchen and Victorian laundry. *Wilton House, Wilton, (01722 743115). Tomorrow at 11am. Adults £5.75; children £3.75; under-fives £1.50; family (two and two) £14.25.*

YORKSHIRE

Model railway show: one of the largest displays in Britain. *York Racecourse, York (01653 694319). Until Tuesday, from 10am onwards Adults £4; children £2.*

History: learn how a medieval town was laid out. *Pontefract Museum, Salter Row, Pontefract (01977 797289). Today from 10.30am-5pm, tomorrow from 2.30-5pm. Free.*

JANE BIDDER



After you have removed the contents of the egg, the shell is ready to be painted

The fine art of egg decorating

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Make stands for your eggs by cutting up old egg boxes. To hang your egg, thread through both ends of an empty shell with a long darning needle and secure with a bead.

To make dinosaur eggs, colour an empty egg green by painting it or boiling it in food colouring for ten minutes. Block the pointed end with Plasticine and stand it in an egg cup. Make up some green jelly and let it partially set before pouring into the egg.

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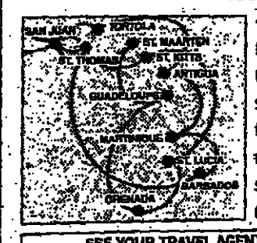
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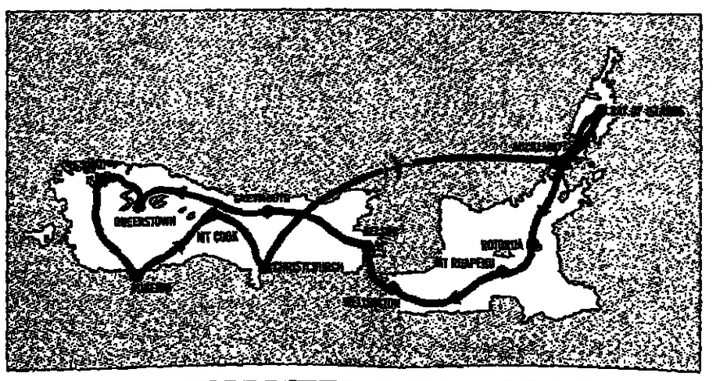
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BAHAMAS: **Mary Ann Sieghart** on a parents' paradise — and the stress of flying

The fantasy land made for families


PICTURES

Most holidays are a choice between heritage and seaside. To find architectural interest, you usually have to go inland. But Harbour Island, a remote spot in the Bahamas archipelago, offers all you could ask for in the way of beautiful buildings and tropical beaches, lumped together in a few square miles.

Dunmore Town, the main settlement, is a collection of ridiculously pretty 18th and 19th-century pastel-coloured clapboard houses, decorated with wrought-iron balconies and dripping hibiscus and bougainvillea. They cluster around a little harbour and continue up the hill behind and down again, until they reach the other side of the island, a mere half-mile away, which plays host to a beach straight out of fantasy-land.

Several miles long, and a pale pink in the right light, this long stretch of powdery sand was almost empty when I arrived with my family at the beginning of November. Admittedly we were still out of season: most tourists come between Thanksgiving, at the end of November, and July. The island virtually shuts down for the rest of the summer and autumn.

I can firmly recommend it empty. We had paradise to ourselves, and took advantage of the sea breeze that seems to blow right through November, taking the edge off what would otherwise have been blisteringly sunny days. We hired an open golf cart in which to potter around the island, feeling rather like Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher with a couple of stray children. We swam in the morning and afternoon, then went to the Harbour Lounge restaurant to watch the sun set. This charming 18th-century wooden house serves the most delicious lobster salad for $10 (about £6).

After four days on Harbour Island, we took the ferry to Eleuthera, a few minutes away. This larger island, settled by religious dissidents from Bermuda in 1649, has only one road running down its spine — the man from whom we hired the car laughed when we asked for directions.

And the friend from whom we rented the house laughed when we asked about security. Should we take care to lock up when we went to the beach? A key, it turned out, did not even exist, because nobody ever bothered to lock up. Having stayed in Jamaica, where almost every house has bars cemented into the window brickwork, this was a delight.

It is unthinkable on these little islands not to greet everyone you pass on the street. But it is equally unthinkable not to wave at everyone you pass in a car. When we drove past a group of rather tough-looking youths, my instinct was to wind up the windows, but they smiled and waved at us first.

This Bahamian friendliness is genuine. Everybody seemed ready to help and keen to talk, especially to our little girls. When we ran out of eggs, a woman from the local bar gave us three from her fridge and refused to accept any payment.

Windermere Island, joined by a causeway to Eleuthera, was where we stayed in a private house on the beach. It took us two hours to walk to the end of the beach and back, and usually we passed just one other person. It was not hard to see why the Prince and Princess of Wales had chosen to come here early in their marriage.

The islands still have a British feel to them, which may be why we felt so welcome. But the atmosphere is more 1950s than 1990s: the schoolchildren are all immaculately uniformed and the churches are packed on Sundays. Guy Fawkes Day was incongruously celebrated on a balmy November evening in the main town, Governor's Harbour, while we were there.

That is the real beauty of these outlying Bahamian islands: they are history fringed with palms.

Palm-fringed beach and warm seas make the long flight to the Bahamas well worth while

Sitting it out

Parents of young children often sigh when they remember the exotic holidays they used to take in their carefree childless days. We decided to test the theory that it was possible to take children on a long-haul holiday and still have fun.

Most people fly to the Bahamas via Miami (about nine hours from London), spend the night there, and catch an early morning flight the following day (1¼ hours). On the way back, you can fly direct on the "red-eye" overnight jet.

As airlines go, Virgin is excellent for children. At the start of the flight, each child is presented with an "aviator" rucksack, filled with crayons, a colouring and puzzle book, socks, toothbrush and so on. They are also given a "ration box" with a packet of crisps, a piece of fruit, a chocolate bar and a carton of juice.

Virgin also offers special children's meals. And they can provide a child seat, rather like a car seat, for toddlers up to 18 months.

The entertainment system is excellent: a screen set into the rear of each seat shows nine channels, including one for children.

Trying to occupy a three-year-old and a one-year-old in a confined space for nine hours is no fun, particularly when the youngest has a stomach bug and teeth coming through. But the stewardesses were friendly and did not seem to mind the toddler invading their galley.

When we got to the Bahamas, we reckoned that it had been worth gritting our teeth for the nine hours; more of a problem was the jet lag. It took the children a week to adjust fully to Bahamas time and to wake up at a civilised hour.

But the rewards were magnificent. I have never seen my three-year-old so happy as she was there: playing on miles of deserted, sandy beaches, gaining confidence in a warm sea, making friends with the ever smiling Bahamians.

Coming back was stressful. Our flight was full, so four of us had to share three seats. There was never a time when both of our children were asleep, so we didn't get a wink ourselves. There were several hours, indeed, when I had a child's head on each thigh.

The flight went without mishap, until the end. After two aborted landings at Gatwick, we diverted to Heathrow, which was fine for us. But when we arrived, we were told that we could not disembark: we would have to wait until the fog cleared from Gatwick so that we could fly back there. So we sat, and sat, and sat . . .

Every half hour or so, the captain would announce that we were about to set off again, and then ten minutes later say that the fog had returned at Gatwick.

After three and a half hours of waiting on the tarmac, the captain said we could disembark. The passengers cheered — most did not need to go to Gatwick anyway. But we did wonder why the whole process had taken so long; and why our baggage did not appear for another hour and a half.

Virgin still has some public relations lessons to learn.

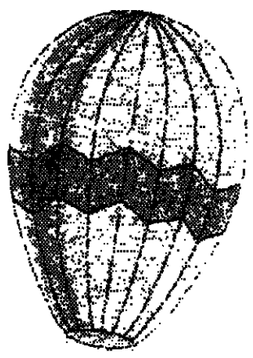

Mary Ann Sieghart and her children in the Bahamas

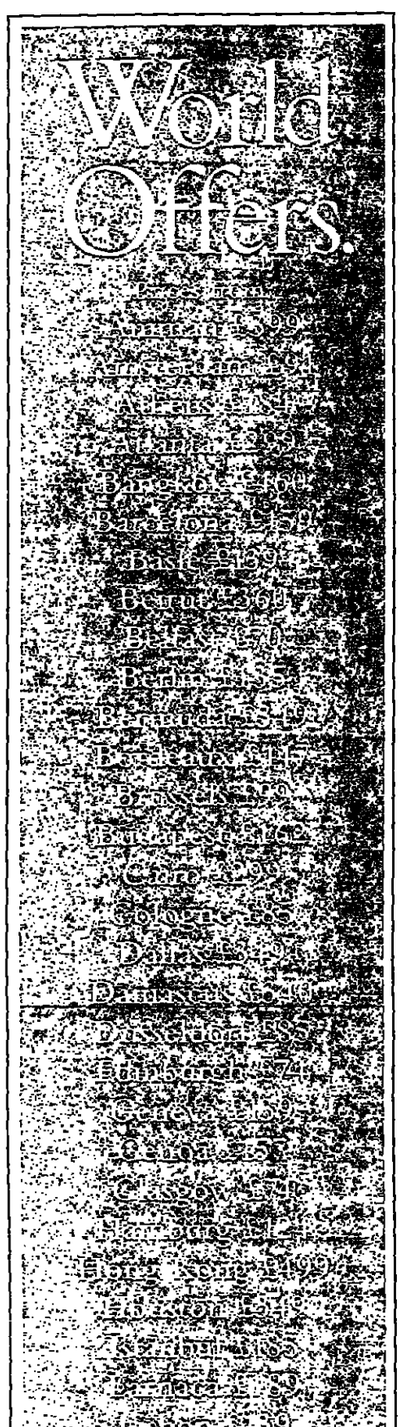
Bahamas fact file

☐ Mary Ann Sieghart flew to Miami courtesy of Virgin Airlines. An Apex return ticket from London costs from £328. Two airlines fly on to Eleuthera: Airways International (00 1 305 887 2794) and Gulfstream International Airlines (00 1 305 871 1200): the round trip from Miami costs about £140.

☐ With some help from the Bahamas Tourist Board, the author stayed at the Romora Bay Hotel on Harbour Island and then at a private house on Windermere Island.

☐ Other hotels on Harbour Island include Pink Sands and the Dunmore Beach Club. Private villas can be rented through McKinney & Associates Island Properties (00 1 809 332 2221/2257).





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VENETIAN BREAK: **Anthony Holden** samples high life at the Cipriani and drama on the Orient-Express

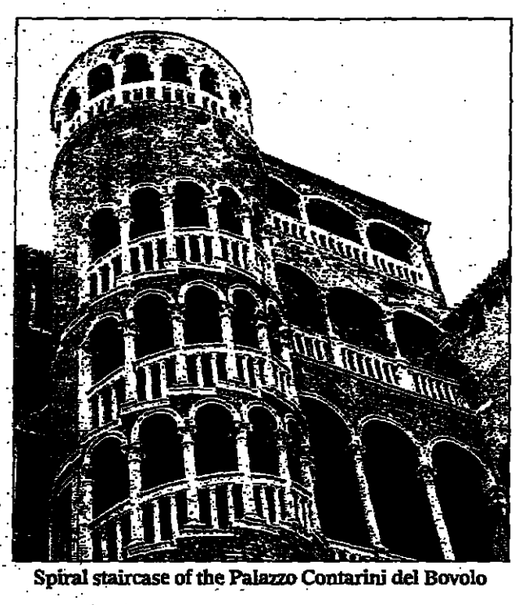
Pleasures of la dolce vita with a sting in the tale



The impressive domes of the Santa Maria della Salute, built by Baldassare Longhena, tower over the magnificent façades of houses on the Grand Canal

Of all the pleasure-palaces in all the eternal cities in all the world, only one so incomparably combines ethereal Renaissance refinement with all the creature comforts of the late 20th-century high life. It has to be Venice, and it has to be the Cipriani hotel, set in its own three manicured acres on the island of Giudecca, gazing serenely at the most beautiful view on earth.

The Gatwick scrum attendant upon Alitalia's computer breakdown was but a distant memory as our water-taxi conveyed us across the lagoon, in bright spring sunshine, to test this Xanadu against its fabled reputation. Within minutes we were ushered into a suite fit for a doge: surely the most stunning hotel room in Europe, probably the world. I do not expect to look on (or from) its like again.



Spiral staircase of the Palazzo Contarini del Bovolo

With a dozen rooms sprawled over two floors, and a wraparound panorama of Venice and the lagoon, Apartment C at the Cipriani is surmounted by its own private sundeck on the roof, with its own view across the water to San Marco. Even at night, when the March winds blew cold, it was hard to drag yourself back indoors.

It was in this suite that Jimmy Carter and Giscard d'Estaing conducted their 1979 "reconciliation" summit. It was over this suite that Jack Nicholson's people fought with Tom Hanks's people at last year's Venice Film Festival. And it was from this suite that my wife and I wondered if we could bring ourselves to



Gondolas awaiting fares

make even the briefest of exits during the 48 hours when it was, unbelievably, our own.

We did, of course — to re-explore the Baroque beauties across the water, and the culinary fantasies available downstairs. But not before making full use of the Olympic-size Jacuzzi, exploring the Venetian horizon through our upstairs, state-of-the-art telescope, sampling room service's version of afternoon tea (delicacies enough to fuel a small army) while agreeing that it would be sacrilege to close the curtains and surf through the giant-screen cable television channels available in the corner of most rooms.

Dinner beneath the restaurant's Murano chandeliers, floodlit waters lapping at our feet, blew away the blues of six winter months in London. Recalling that this was the scene of the Heseltine heart attack, I reined in on the legendary pasta, opting to let some (non-crate) veal melt on my tongue. For a post-prandial cigar dipped in vintage port, over coffee served by liveried flunkies, it was back to our eyrie in the stars.

Breakfast was another moveable feast, begun in one wing of our suite and continued down by the landscaped pool, beside the 15th-century Palazzo Vendramin, which is now a mere Cipriani annexe. Where princes and potentates have begun their day on an egg, I went to work on a waffle, baffled by Roman Polanski's entry in the visitors' book: "No girls! It was a dream." And so, by private launch, to La Serenissima.

Two days of this, and we were more than ready not to leave. Usually, for me, a day or two's footwork around the *Venetian labyrinth is enough*, given a statutory night at the Fenice Opera. Never before, however, have I had such a beguiling burrow to retreat to. It was all too soon that the water-taxi returned, like Aschenbach's Grim Reaper, to wake us from our Venetian dream.

The only consolation for checking out of the Cipriani is to check into its sister hotel-home, the Orient-Express. On goes the exhausting parade of *luxury, now on wheels rather* than water, *fin-de-that-siècle* rather than this, as you are remorselessly carried back towards the dull thud of home. At least it takes two days.

Climbing the Austrian Alps towards *Innsbruck involves* minimal effort if you do so sitting amid the ornate, art-deco splendour of a once royal *dining-car, lunching your way* from *Médaillons de Lotte sur Fondue de Radicchio* via *Aiguilette de Canard au Beaumes de Venise* to *Feuilletée de Poires aux Amandes et Fruits de la Passion*, all eased down by a little (OK, a lot of) 1982 Château Margaux.

Back in our his-and-hers mahogany-panelled cabins, each with a commodious sofa-turned-bed, it was hard not to snooze away the rest of Austria before blinking awake on the Swiss border and bracing ourselves for a five-course dinner even more challenging than lunch. *Minestrone de Langoustines, Filet de Boeuf röti aux Morilles, Crème brûlée à la Noix de Coco et Rhum.* No wonder we slept like corpses, despite a complete lack of exercise all day beyond the repeated lifting of fork and glass from table to mouth.

At 9.45 next morning, 24 hours after leaving Venice, we reached Paris bang on time, more than ready to tackle a brunch of lobster and champagne *en route* to Calais.

If it all seemed too good to be true, as articles like this have a habit of suggesting, for once it really was. Readers prone to *Schadenfreude*, who have by now worked up a healthy hatred of the travel writer's privileged life, will love what happened next.

Stretching my legs on the platform of the Gare de l'Est, taking greedy gulps of some unfamiliar stuff called fresh air, I noticed an ugly scene fomenting up front. Closer inspection revealed a posse of French railworkers, in long-running dispute with Wagons-Lits, gleefully occupying the track in front of our engine.

In vain did our tail-coated management remind these *nouveaux* Robespierres that Orient-Express was a separate (and indeed private) company. For an hour and more, as our departure time slipped by, they were not to be budged. By the time *les flics* finally moved them on, one delay was breeding another, and yet more champagne corks popping to an elegant descant of apologies.

We eventually pulled into Calais 90 minutes late, having missed our Sea Cat, and even the subsequent ferry. Three hours later we reached Dover, courtesy of P&O, only to discover that our luxury Pullman train home was awaiting us in Folkestone.

By way of a typically warm welcome back, British immigration then held us hostage aboard the courtesy buses for yet another hour, producing all of two staff to process the 50 Japanese who had climbed aboard for this interminable last leg. After afternoon tea sipped more in sorrow than in anger, we finally reeled into Victoria three hours late.

It had taken two hours to get to Venice, and two days to get back. Until Paris, there was no doubt which journey — given the time — was ineffably the more enjoyable. After Paris . . . well, maybe the owner of the Orient-Express (and the Cipriani), the ever-enterprising James Sherwood, might negotiate rights of passage through the Chunnel.

WORD-WATCHING

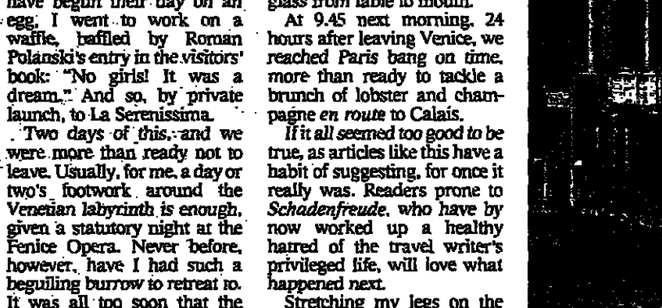
Answers from page 21

HUTUNG
(b) In northern Chinese cities, a narrow side-street, an alley, transliteration of the Chinese.

KERERU
(a) The New Zealand pigeon, *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*, from the Maori.

MAIKO
(c) A girl who is being trained to become a geisha, transliterated from the Japanese. "They are but Maiko — geisha so young and untried as to be beneath Japanese consideration."

MICHELSBERG
(c) A Neolithic Belgo-Germanic culture illustrated by remains (especially pottery) found at Michelsberg in Baden, Germany, a toponym.



The Orient-Express winding its way through the Austrian Alps. Right: the swimming pool at the Cipriani hotel

Fact file

☐ The author was a guest of the Orient-Express Hotels, which owns the Cipriani and Palazzo Vendramin in Venice, the Villa San Michele in Florence, the Hotel Splendido in Portofino and, of course, the eponymous train.

☐ The Cipriani has 95 rooms and suites, all with air conditioning and Jacuzzis, plus seven suites with private butler service at the Palazzo Vendramin. Room with American breakfast at the Cipriani ranges from lire 450,000 to 2,000,000 (about £165 to £730) per night in low season (February 24 to April 13) and lire 750,000 to 3,500,000 (about £275 to £1,275) per night in high season (April 14 to October 31). Rates include service charge and taxes. A 15 per cent reduction is offered on stays of 14 nights or more. Book via Orient-Express Hotels' London office (0181-568 8366) or direct with the Cipriani, Giudecca, 10 — 20133, Venezia, Italy (00 39 41 520 7744; fax 520 3930).

☐ The Orient-Express travels from London (Victoria) to Venice every Sunday and Thursday, via Folkestone, Paris, Zurich, Innsbruck and Verona. Trains leave London mid-morning and arrive in Venice early the following evening. The return journey is every Wednesday and Saturday, leaving Venice mid-morning and arriving London (Victoria) early the following evening. A two-berth cabin costs £940 per person one-way or £1,365 return (including meals but not drinks). For reservations call 0171-928-6000.

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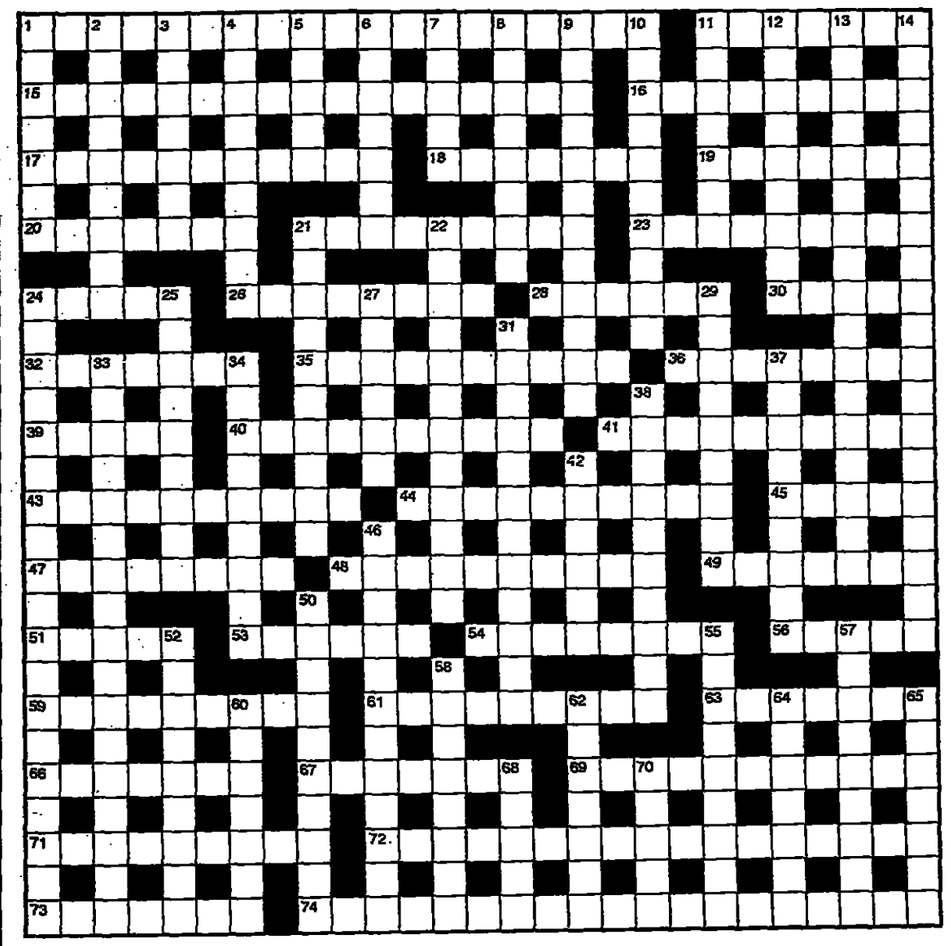
1 Churchman I installed beside new partner's boss? That's novel! (10,9)
11 Not showing much friendliness, so far (2)
15 Book performances by Cambridge society? (4,2,3,8)
16 Hope rooms can be arranged for foreign student (9)
17 Drove one potty, being so mawkish (11)
18 Take a relaxed attitude about Conservative policy (7)
19 Shot in the course of military offensive (2-5)
20 Beryl's part in ephemeral drama (7)
21 Increase in noise from endless street party (9)
23 Hypocritical husband in foreign city agents brought back (9)
24 Noble done away with by tsar, or by a revolution (5)
26 A lot of information rejected at short notice by the bench (4,4)
28 Little boy taking prize in Kentish Town (6)
30 Hard battle engaged in for control of board (5)
32 Apprentice who's paid a pound? (7)
35 Striking comment by expert (10)
36 County determined to put on a few runs (5)
39 Uniform is something one appreciates (5)
40 Mythical monster to observe, say, with old instrument (3-7)
41 Writing quickly, with lively start (7,3)
43 Toed line by behaving so pluntly? (10)
44 Like some of Shaw's plays, and unlike Lear (10)
45 Sweet rose, initially taken from Lancaster, perhaps (5)
47 Vagabond finds gemstone on trip (8)
48 Traveller irate at order to return home (10)
49 Wine that may be available from Italian chain (7)
51 Queen escapes from knight's protection for affair (5)
53 Glib as one of 63's sons, unlike his brother (6)
54 Support in the House for form of social service (4,4)
56 Mercy shown by George I (5)
59 In excavation site, new worker is aggravated (9)
61 Note experienced campaigner's fearful reaction (4,5)
63 Novel combination of notes on old stringed instrument (7)
66 Execute, or put to waste away in part of prison (7)
67 They announce steps to be taken for visitors (7)
69 Put in certain changes at the last minute (11)
71 Mineral found in a research area attached to plant (9)
72 Problem for 56 in play (3,7,7)
73 Noblewoman and duke vote for this feast (4,3)
74 Going by air, veterans will always survive (3,8,5,3)

DOWN

1 Group of players that's forming a club (7)
2 Profoundly at home with numbers, see? (9)
3 Beethoven's work, including his fourth, is exciting stuff (7)
4 Having a high fever? Rash, too (3-6)
5 He may be engaged in receiving information (5)
6 Beat after queen's moved up to check (7)
7 Guest abandons it as a means of saving face (5)
8 Wedding cake decoration given second place at first (8)
9 Collection of T. S. Eliot's main characters (12)
10 Little girl's particular form of rudeness (10)
11 Old map I reconstructed as a result of scholarly work (7)
12 Swimmer taken back from baths if drowsy (9)
13 Its existence is highly doubtful (10,7)
14 Polo, perhaps, can be played dramatically (3,8,2,6)
21 Queen's calls to provide sound defences (10)
22 Can't plan tour, being poorly with various strains (12)
24 Work of a poet writing with conviction (6,2,7,4)
25 Producing tears without hesitation in a performance (9)
27 Highball in a large glass (6)
29 Support hard call-up, with a view to the future (9)
31 Lacking modesty, Virginia? Shamefull (12)
33 Fantastic relation of an Oxford don (5,2,10)
34 So earnest, perhaps, is regularly moved by sympathy (9)
37 Raising points with Jack and Heather (9)
38 Bosses give worker amount of time indicated for hearing (10)
42 Dwelling in which you'll find foremost of aristocrats (6)
46 Signalled or cued, with stage lit badly (12)
50 Wheel-spin's risky here at end of motor race (5,5)
52 Sort of man that's really needed on a side (5-4)
55 Original Christmas present for lexicographer (9)
57 Current medical reforms greeted with approval (9)
58 Remodel, for instance, ring for close friend (5,3)
60 Like an expert, fittingly including lower classes (7)
62 Letter from end of the street picked up by collection (7)
64 Outstanding characters among Liberal's constituents (7)
65 In an extreme situation, article could be mean (7)
68 Origin of shrewish complaint (5)
70 Contribution from editor usually added at bottom of column (5)

TEST YOUR WORD POWER IN OUR CROSSWORD COMPETITION

Prizes of £100 will be given for the first six correct solutions opened on Monday, May 1, 1995. Entries should be sent to: Easter Jumbo Crossword, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winner and solution will be published on Saturday, May 6, 1995.



NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

..... POSTCODE .....

Times Two Easter Holiday Crossword

There are no prizes for this crossword. The answers will be published on Monday.

ACROSS

1 Breathtaking remark (12,7)
11 Withdraw from confrontation (4,3)
15 Dregs of society (Marxism) (17)
16 Spanish gentleman (9)
17 Covent Garden etc performer (5,6)
18 Heyerdahl raft (3-4)
19 William —, NT translator (7)
20 Long-long metrical foot (7)
21 Wife of Hiawatha (9)
23 French chemist, made law of gases (3-6)
24 Yorks. city; Kent castle (5)
26 Bread snack (8)
28 Shore: maroon (6)
30 Cover for cook (5)
32 Nursing; being likely (7)
35 Degree ceremony (10)
36 Showing joy, enthusiasm (8)
39 Weapon; pierce (boil) (5)
40 Restriction (10)
41 Conditional: military group (10)
43 Withdrawing (10)
44 Within reach (10)
45 Wash (5)
47 William I's book (8)
48 Hater of marriage (10)
49 Czech/Polish region, once Prussian (7)
51 Go forth; children (5)
53 Pin for meat (6)
54 Pen spillage (3-5)
56 Indian currency (5)
59 Flooded (9)
61 Sneak (on someone) (4,5)
63 Put in (for use) (7)
66 Adult (5-2)
67 As a whole (2,5)
69 Generous of spirit (11)
71 (Working) in agriculture (2,3,4)
72 Worst possible case (9,8)
73 Succession of kings (7)
74 Getting drunk to forget (8,4,7)

DOWN

1 Unfeeling (7)
2 Myself (selfishly) (6,3)
3 Green gem (7)
4 Foolish sentimentality (9)
5 Leather strip, whip (5)
6 Swamp; finish late (7)
7 Flash of fire (5)
8 Eastern (8)
9 Fossilisation (12)
10 Marquess, 18C Whig leader (10)
11 Rope securing bowsprit (7)
12 Pot marigold (9)
13 Domineering behaviour (17)
14 The Lady with the Lamp (8,11)
21 Handling, control (10)
22 Formation of hard coating (12)
24 She found wolf had eaten granny (6,3,6,4)
25 Invertebrate; craven (9)
27 Apparition (6)
29 Intrepid (9)
31 Opposed (eg candidate) (5,7)
33 Almost always (4,5,3,2,3)
34 Pauline epistle (9)
37 Using both eyes (9)
38 Concealed tricks, bombs (5,5)
42 Rock; singes (anag.) (6)
46 Not-too-serious piece of music (12)
50 Picked off faded blooms (10)
52 Imperils (9)
55 Annoyances (9)
57 Violin, cello, and keyboard piece (5,4)
58 Photographer's light source (5-3)
60 Hedge-shaping (7)
62 Lower backache (7)
64 Fly; spider (arch.) (7)
65 Tuition periods (7)
68 Consumed (5)
70 Birds in gaggle, skein (5)

SOLUTION TO No. 446

ACROSS: 4 Blues 7 Eminence 8 Souk 9 Up in arms 10 Vestry 13 Avalon 14 Anoint 15 Escape 18 Shanghai 19 Scry 20 Dividend 21 Eagre

DOWN: 1 Depose 2 Wicket 3 Penury 4 Ben Nevis 5 Umbrella 6 Season 11 Show a leg 12 Renegade 14 Assume 15 Elicit 16 Custer 17 Parody

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ALOOF but warm hearted slim, attractive, lively and adventurous prof woman 40's WLTM similar man. Skiers particularly welcome. London/East Anglia. Please Reply to Box No 5242

AMUSED/Amusing theoretically solvent divorcee late 40's wonders are there any unattached straight men London /Oxfords who enjoy opera/theatre /art/travel/food but not fanatical golf/bridge/politics /religion? n/s. Reply to Box 5393

AMUSING, attractive widow 50, living in South enjoys wining and dining, books, music, theatre, city and country life WLTM romantic, sincere n/s man for lots of fun & lasting relationship. Reply Box 6370

ARE you tall, attractive, sophisticated, successful solvent businessman, unpretentious with no ties or hangups, cleanshaven, medium to well-built, socially aware with a hint of sensitivity, appreciates quality of life, sensitive but not domineering, have presence & personality, your feet firmly on the ground, know exactly where you are going & what you want from life. Between 46 & 52 max. If so reply to this unattached, very attractive, slim, shapely, sophisticated n/s, intelligent brunette in her 40's without ties or hangups who is interested in solvent. Recent photo & phone a must. Reply to Box No 8582

ATTRACTIVE witty warm woman, living in London, seeks similar unattached male professional, 35+. Box No 5210

ATTRACTIVE tall well spoken Pub Sch educated lady 53 would like to meet non-smoking Pub Sch, 53-60, country interests, farming etc Cotswolds, Oxon, Hants, Berks, Dorset. Must be solvent. Box No 8441.

ATTRACTIVE warm, young outlook Christian lady. Just 5'2" Just 50 WLTM ta1lish professional male to share the arts, fresh air, good food, family values and much more. Box 5345

ATTRACTIVE slim, blonde, divorced, Welsh speaking graduate, 38, living in mid-Wales WLTM discerning prof man who enjoys theatre, walking & travel. Pise reply Box No 5479

ATTRACTIVE lady 49 Cheshire based without ties seeks solvent gent for travel and excitement. Photo please to Box No 6481

ATTRACTIVE Lady 49 seeks well travelled cultured man for friendship. Box No 8314

BEAUTIFUL feminine Independent lady 53 yrs seeks gentleman. London/Home counties. Please Reply to Box No 5226

BRIGHT, lively, intelligent, attractive, graduate, /professional 40, enjoys the country-side, tennis, horse and garden, travelling and much more WLTM kind, caring, attractive but not domineering, have presence & personality, your feet firmly on the ground, know exactly where you are going & what you want from life. Between 46 & 52 max. If so reply to this unattached, very attractive, slim, shapely, sophisticated n/s, intelligent brunette in her 40's without ties or hangups who is interested in solvent. Recent photo & phone a must. Reply to Box No 8582

BRIGHTON Pretty, slim, petite, independent. No children. Good horsewoman. GSOH. Likes holidays, sport, country walks, shopping, good food and wine, theatre, ballet, the arts. WLTM 6ft\tall, 50ish, successful gentleman. Must be strong, easygoing, sincere, romantic, tactile, generous, smart, n/s and have similar interests. For meaningful relationship, Surrey area. Please Reply to Box No 5197

ATTRACTIVE, intelligent, charismatic fun loving lady, financially secure WLTM similar professional tall male 47+ for sincere friendship, London preferably. Please Reply to Box No 6263

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ARTISTIC, attractive woman, 38, requires potential country bumpkin to roll in the hay with! Must also desire a communicative, loving long term relationship. Box No 5164

A serious search for an emotionally, perhaps physically, solid, mature, independent-thinking, educated and sensual man, age 45-60ish. Offering loving relationship with slim, attractive, relaxed late 40's graduate working mum. Photo if poss. Realistic radius Sheffield. Please Reply to Box No 8494

ATTENTION all you professional gentlemen! A curvy, bubbly professional 56 yr old lady seeks someone to share her love of classical music, theatre, wining & dining & perhaps bridge & tennis. Photo appreciated. S/W Midlands. Plse Reply Box 5400

ATTRACTIVE, intelligent lady, 47, Slim, petite, independent. No children. Good horsemanship. GSOH. Likes holidays, sport, country walks, shopping, good food and wine, theatre, ballet, the arts. WLTM 6ft\tall, 50ish, successful gentleman. Must be strong, easygoing, sincere, romantic, tactile, generous, smart, n/s and have similar interests. For meaningful relationship, Surrey area. Please Reply to Box No 5197

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CHATELAINE sans chateau. Seeks noble man of rank and fortune. She has classic beauty, grace and wit. He will be handsomely exceptional, under 48 with a rich and varied past. Detective entries only. Please Reply to Box No 5849

CHEERFUL ridiculous and naughty sense of humour. Loves racing, riding, sailing, skiing and summer balls, seeks like-minded male 35-50. Please Reply to Box No 5435

CHRISTIAN 51+, is it for you geek? I am so lovely, fab. I wish to see 55 65-1-5 and 5ft 84 (tall-filled). Here I am 0-007E 52-47N. Find me. Box No 5476

CLASSICAL musician 39, tall, curvaceous and Single. A good cook, lousy swimmer WLTM a music loving gentleman between 40 and 50, GSOH & n/s who lives within reasonable distance of Peterborough. Please Reply to Box No 8483

CURIOUS, creative, lady (38), ready 6ft, in healthy mental & physical condition, imagines man, dark, dramatic, intelligent but ridiculously humorous; for passion and protection. Please Reply to Box No 5277

DROP-DEAD GORGEOUS BLONDE, career girl, mid 30's would like to fall in love with cultured professional Londoner, based near Liverpool St Station for frequent flings, far-away places and a sophisticated urban lifestyle. Please Reply to Box No 5333

EAST ANGLIA. Lively attractive slim blonde of 48 who enjoys life is in need of good male company to complete it. Photo please to Box No 6379

EXTREMELY attractive slim elegant lady mid 40's requires someone very special. Photo please. London area. Please Reply to Box No 5346

6'2 Eyes of blue. Attractive, well dressed lady, 5'6", playboy type, caring with flair, seeks amiable gentleman preferably good-looking with love of life to share social life. Country lover preferred. Based West Country. Please reply to Box 5105.

FASCINATING female in her 50's, well travelled, many interests incl theatre, arts, walking, country walks, classical music, n/s seeks suitably sophisticated suitor. Sussex/London/SE Please Reply Box No 6065

FEMININE warm cultured lady, attractive GSOH, love of arts, independent, social WLTM tall solvent prof man 60-69 to SE to share nights out, affection and more. Please Reply with recent photo to Box No 5391

FRIENDLY, sorted, attractive woman (31) likes Cranberries, Titian, bronze elephant, chocolate, quiet summer night, honest, cuddly man to hang around with. E. Anglia /London. Reply to Box 8299

GARDEN loving horticulturist seeks companion to 60ish slim blonde to travel round gardens at home & abroad perhaps with a view to permanency. Box 8303.
Journalist, London/S.East. Photo please. Reply to Box No 5812

GENUINE, vivacious, pretty, single, Continental lady in her mid 30's, professional, Londonbased, very fun loving, seeks similar man to share life of loyalty. Reply to Box No 5196

HELP prove to stylish well-educated, independent, & civilised widow (65) that there's no substitute for companionship. She WLTM similar gent (65-66), who likes travel, & country; theatre; gd food & wine & travel Box 5318

IF you love the arts/country, are single and want someone who's hesitant about columns like these, contact me 54, attractive, blonde, slim, 5'10", n/s, West. Photo app. Box 5450

I'M ripe for romance! 20's, tall, slim, n/s, very attractive, warm, GSOH with lots of interests. You are overflowing with lively grey cells and wonderful qualities that will enamore me. Photo and tel no. apprec. South, London but will travel. No playboys or polyester. please!) Please Reply to Box No 8135

I'M single very attractive, slim dark haired, 39, 5'4", wanting to meet sincere, successful, professional entrepreneurial sporty in London/Kent/ Surrey/ Herts. Box No 8483

INTELLIGENT woman, slim, youthful, attractive upper 60's, seeks male companion combining good looks, good intellect and good SOH for mutual enjoyment of music, the arts, conversation and each other's company. London/South. Please Reply to Box No 5320

KATHARINE ALLEN. "The highly respected marriage bureaux" (The Independent). 18 Thayer St, London W1M 5LD. Tel: 071-935 3116

KENT. Prof lady, young 41, attractive brunette. Apparently independent but with soft centre. WLTM intelligent, unattached, sincere SWM, preferably tall, slim, n/s for lasting friendship. Plse Reply to Box No 5298

KENT/Sussex. Attractive, sensual, vivacious, smart lady seeks professional 47+ gentleman 6'+ with zest for life. Photo preferred. Box No 8485

LADY 40ish, funny unpredictable, fails off ladders, likes motorbikes, cooking, architecture and art. Has house & car etc. Needs n/s man to relax with. London/Home Counties. Please Reply to Box No 8506

LEONINE lawyer, 40, tall, elegant, n/s, 6'2", seeks feminine with exotic taste needs entertaining, educated, cultured, professional gentleman 45-50, medium build, North West area for perfectly symbiotic relationship - no wimps, lmaivants or emotional cripples. Unfortunately love with photo assures reply. Box No. 8416

LONDON based but heart in the Highlands. Successful freelance writer, forties, wants to meet sensitive, serious, unconventional man. Reply to Box 8439.

LONG-LEGGED 5'7" slim lovely brunette 40's GSOH warm n/s solvent graduate WLTM 6'+, (personality) 50-65, cultured prof gent for dancing cinema lshnle life London. Box No 5364

LOOKING good at 45? Very attractive Somerset professional lady, fair, slim, fit, n/s, WLTM attractive male 40-50yrs. Somerset. Photo/letter please to Box No 8468

MEN OF THE WORLD, how is your time? If you live in the Midlands we have lots of sophisticated ladies 25-70. Elite introductions 021 386 5444.

MYSTICAL Beauty, warm, wise, faithful. Wide interests - holism, science, humour, travel, fishing... offers meaningful, joyful relationship to courageous, enlightened, beneficient Warrior /Magician. Box No 8503

NEWCASTLE female 29 seeks intelligent, educated prof man for theatre/walks/dinner. Please Reply to Box No 5264

NICE looking, healthy widow, 73, nice house South Coast, WLTM unattached gentleman in Surrey, 75 plus. In similar circumstances for friendship, companionship or marriage. Please Reply to Box No 5290

OOMPH filled man wanted by vivacious, artistic, sensitive, baggage-free London blonde, 36. Photo please. Box No 5349

PLEASE rescue beautiful lovable 45 w.l.t.m. lover companion soulmate imdisturbed by her present location in Cornwall. Please Reply to Box No 8286

PERFECT figure, pretty face, intelligent, charming and sophisticated (38); me. Very Headscape, intelligent, civilised, aged 40-50 and seeking love, friendship, and fun. Central London but will travel. (No playboys or polyester. please!) Please Reply to Box No 8135

PETITE attractive optimistic 53yr old lady seeking unattached professional businessman with integrity and humour to share the good things in life. Photo please - will return. Box No 5142

SLIM attractive, lively 33yr old female seeks male with mature attitude yet who likes to have fun, aged 33-40 (London area) Photo please. Box No 8248

SLIM, petite, attractive lady late 40's, cultured, warm, caring, loves family life, classical music, opera, Art, own home in beautiful Sussex village WLTM kind, cultured n/s gentleman. Please Reply to Box No 5276

SOUTH West. Early 40's widow. Fit and fair. Blue eyed and slim. GSOH - brain and body to match! Seeks tall, humorous, kind intelligent man, preferably under 50 with whom to have some fun. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5520

SPARKY intelligent and good-looking female lover of the arts and travel seeks high voltage 40-something male to light up her life. Write to Box No 5158 with photograph please

SUSSEX woman WLTM ordinary man, late 50's/60's, with intelligence, humour and zest for life. I enjoy London /countryside and have varied intellectual/cultural interests and would like to share life and enthusiasms with another. Reply to Box No 5265

TENNIS loving, tall, lively, n/s divorced lady, 38, would be thrilled with double ticket for Wimbledon wonders where are the sporty qualities? Interested then 45-55. Reply to Box No 5305

TOP professional lady, 38, uncommonly attractive, monsterfully x trsle plume but trying. Carsha., Lincs., Norfolk border based, well-built, well-bum, pref. Public School educated gentleman, animal-lover, interested in countryside and starting a family before time runs out. Highest discretion assured and required. Plse Reply Box 5385

V. ATTRACTIVE 5'8", 37, blonde, blue eyed, divorced, married, slim, VGSOH and v. caring wants to meet v. attractive professional, who likes meeting people, gives affection & love, VGSOH, 37-42, 5' to 5'6". slim and would like to form a genuine relationship. Box No 6298

VERY attractive, Cambridge educated female, Slim, warm-hearted, 31yrs. Seeks well-educated, attractive, caring, male, 30-40yrs. to share life with. Romance, loyalty, commitment and happy ever after. Photo assures reply. Box No 8198

VIVACIOUS brunette, attractive and intelligent, sometimes wilful, would love to meet confident caring active 45-55 yr old to share town/country interests, travel and various sporting opportunities. Herts based. n/s. Photo apprec. Box No 5306

WARM, caring lady, one child, 38, n/s, tall, WLTM kind, sincere, unattached gentleman 40-50 for friendship/companionship. I'm not stunning and definately not slim but I'm intelligent, funny & good company. I live in Hertfordshire, work for the NHS, enjoy the theatre, cinema, good food, conversation & life in general. Box No 8536

WIDOW 60 WLTM a sincere gentleman, 5'10"+ to share life with. SE London/Kent borders. Photo would be nice. Please Reply to Box No 8213

WIDOWED blonde lady, late 30's looking for caring man with GSOH who is looking for me. 35+. London/S.East. Please Reply to Box No 8239

WOMAN Graduate, professional career, cultured, personable, quiet disposition, n/s, loves social and chats music books, fine art WLTM financially secure confident man 35-70 similar interests to share affection and commitment. Midlands/North preferred. Please Reply to Box No 8253

YACHTSWOMAN, tall, slim 35 attractive brunette. Busy with work, sailing, travel. Enjoys opera and theatre. WLTM successful single business/career man who also likes taking off from time to time. Hants based but can travel. Please reply to Box No 6249

42yrs, very attractive American professional woman 5'8", divorced with no children, looking for successful, passionate n/s man under 50 to share the joys of life. London area. Please Reply to Box No 8228

GENTLEMEN

AABWARK, I certainly am not just a Cheshire Doctor in need of T.L.C. (Possibly romance) from attractive and empathic local lady CAST: 57466 Photo essential. Box No 5316

ACADEMIC/Writer, tall, attractive, young mid 40's, affectionate, kind, good fun, energetic, no ties or emotional baggage, non intelligent, attractive, positive and passionate woman up to 40 who likes country walks, wining and dining and travel, for romance and sincere relationship. Thames Valley based. Photo please. Plse Reply to Box 8534

ACTIVE attractive, family-orientated single 32 yr old man, varied interests including National Trust, antique classes, and cosy evenings indoors, seeks similar lady 24-36. Based Berkshire. Please reply Box 5065.

ADAM invites Eve for weekend relaxation or long term relationship to share the pleasures of the Garden of Eden (well nearly)! I have a sun trap secluded garden! I could retire but am not. I could relate to a 60yr old who's looking for a new lease of life with your Garden of Eden fantasies. Sth East Box No 5315

1998 - A dream into reality. Let's meet and find out if you are a genuine, intelligent, n/s, financially secure, fun-loving, single, family orientated gentleman, 40's, 6ft+, with a GSOH and a passion for the arts, theatre, cinema, good food, wine, travel, walks in the country, eating in and out? You've found me. I am 41, with a responsible career, lots and a part-time mother. I look lady 30-41 with whom to share everything. London/Home Counties. Please Reply to Box No 6280

ARE you slim, educated, well-read, 40's, n/s, no ties, romantic, unconditional? Fit Englishman, young 60's, yacht, house in Spain WLTM YOU. Photo & long legs plus. London /anywhere. Box No 8410

ATTRACTIVE, available female (30/40) sought for Riviera by 6ft, slim, attractive, affluent, francophile. Box No 8236

BATTERSEA man, 29, professional, into sport, London life, country weekends, wining, dining, legs and generally not taking life too seriously. Hoping to be swept off his feet by witty, attractive, intelligent lady 25-32, prof, with own hair and teeth. Please Reply Box 5365.

BELGRAVIA based, successful Co. Director early 40's. Looking for independent stylish sophisticate to become the lady in his life. Photo appreciated Please Reply to Box No 8250

GENTLEMEN

CASHMERE—VOICED smiling, 5'2", bald, good looks, vital, sincere, kind, n/s, prof man 56, retaining life, modesty, solvent, values independence but needs best friend & lover to share laughs, hugs, pillow talk & mutual lust. If you're bona fide honest, free & live near West Lon: plse write + photo & tel. Bonus for fairly slim yet curvy with big eyes Box 5266.

CHAMPAGNE, caviar, casinos, Royal Ascot etc. If this is your style and if you're elegant, sophisticated, 35-45yrs, based London/South Please Reply to Box No 8432 Photo essential.

CHARMS, stands 6'2" very fit, handsome, prof. gentleman 45 seeks attractive, tall, intelligent lady with good athletic figure. Must love sun, art and France. A lasting partnership in mind would mean settling in beautiful G.I. Lir & photo plse Box 5347

CHASING Dreams? Tall, slim, athletic, intelligent, hard-working man, 45, full of ideas, energy and purpose, seeks woman ready to have fun, travel, love a lot and consider having a child. I am in London. Please reply to Box No 5295

CHESHIRE. North West professional, 40's, lean, active, loves shared outdoors, log fires & travel. Humour essential. Photo please. A.L.A. Box No 5208

COMPANY Chairman looks 40, living in the West End looking for a genuine loving relationship with a special young lady. I am kind, sensitive, honest, gentle and loving, very humorous and intelligent and would like to meet someone similar aged between 20 and 40. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 8214

CONGENIAL Man, mid-fifties, graduate, seeks warm and witty lady for cultivated pursuits and mutual companionship. Beds/baths preferred, but open to persuasion. Plse Reply to Box 5426.

DIVORCED professional gentleman would like to meet lady aged between 45 and 55 for serious relationship. Please Reply to Box No 5199

DOCTOR divorced in his 50's but full of energy, outgoing, passionate, n/s seeks young lady companion. Please reply with telephone no. to Box No 8221

DO you, like me, need sharing and closeness no less than space and independence, enjoy interests, conversation, novels, Schubert, backgrules, plays, Late Show, gossip, painting, Jo Brand, children, Vanity Fair, Sunday Times, late-late Melody FM, travel, Spectator, country walks, argument (not arguments), Mod sculpture, Hardy disreputable but successful divorced journalist, 5ft. slim, amusing, travelled, tactile, affectionate, bed-middle-ofthe-road but allegedly sensitive, seeks long-term synergistic relationship with sympatico woman who is comfortable with herself, spirited, warm, funny, romantic, spontaneous, open-hearted, of like mindful likes. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 8292

DROP me a line- if you are a cultured, refined lady about 40, with a trim, attractive figure. If you are fun loving, with lots of free time, possibly bored and living within M25- I'd like your company for outings, travel, clean fun. Friendship without pressure or complications. I am a Sagittarian gentleman, early 50's, London resident, professional, slim, 5ft. 9ins, bright, independent means, cosmopolitan leisurely lifestyle, cultured, distinguished with old-fashioned values and elegant manners. Photo please. Box No 8289

EASTER Bunnies, hop into my warren and let a charming 5'1.5" 36 yr old share his Cotswold cream egg and spoil you even more! Photo ensures reply. London/Surrey area. Please Reply to Box No 8281

ELUSIVE Businessman, South Cheshire, n/s, 41, slim and fit (outside of head-banging with SOH, enjoys countryside (horses & dogs) & world travelling, WLTM a successful, ambitious tall lady 30-40 who's looking for excitement & fun. Photo esp. Box 8454

ENTREPRENEUR and bon vivant (40) of independent financial means wishes to indulge successful career lady and enjoy the finer things in life, cooking, sailing, arts, travel etc. Plse reply to Box No 8381

EXCEPTIONAL slim, fit, n/s non-smoking very 50's prof male seeks v. attractive slim, stylish & easy-going independent 43+ lady for romance/travel etc. Sth East. Photo appr. Box 8540

EXPERIENCED traveller invites attractive young ladies to join him on country walks most parts U.K. Box No 5297

6', fit intelligent prof male (36). Herts based. Unpretentious, caring and travelled. Enjoys sport, art, food and good friends. Seeks attractive n.s. lady, 27-37, to share concerts, picnics, spring days and Tremantic interludes. Photo plse. Reply to Box No 5837

FULHAM man 30. Professional into sport. London life, country weekends, eating out & the ricks. Hoping to meet attractive (Blonde's pref) lady 25-32. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5505

FUN-loving Adventurous mid 40s prof. interests include, travel, dining out, entertaining at home, skiing etc, would love to hear from attractive like-minded caring, independent lady who feels comfortable eating fish and chips in the paper on Whitby Harbour or caviar look-ing at the city from windows of the World. Please say hello!- I'm on the eccentric. I prefer this individual. Photo and phone number please to Box No 5416.

FUN-LOVING, sporty, wealthy, 36 year old Company Director, looking for attractive slim stewardess aged 25-30 to wed & accompany. Photo's will be returned. Reply Box No 5166

GENTLEMAN 6ft. active - muslim build, 6", young 50, ex rugby player, G.E.O.H. seeks special lady, age and nationality not important, for genuine relationship. London area. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5426.

GENTLEMAN, 41, 6'8, divorced, 2 children, WLTM slim, attractive sporty n/s lady 28-40 for friendship initially and then maybe more. Single mums welcome. Photo appreciated. ALA. Please Reply to Box No 5053

GENUINE reliable but romantic Country Gentleman (Widower) aged 60's seeks slim youngish blonde ex fashion model type lady who considers age as only numbers, non working and free weekdays, elderly if suited, with a view to re-marriage and sharing life to the full. Many interests. Only persons who are genuinely serious to find a very loving and caring soulmate and enjoy living in Midlands please apply with photo essential to Box No 8282

GENUINE, kind, loving, good-looking, Nottingham male, V. fit 51, slim, 6'0", cultured /sporting interests include, travel, theatre, music, WLTM warm, slim, attractive, n/s lady (30-45) view happiness/wonderful future. Photo plse. Reply to Box 5161.

GOOD-LOOKING 6'2" tall, slim, fit, Sch man, with thoughtful kind nature, 40's enjoys sport, travel, history, the arts seeks similar attractive, spontaneous 35-42'ish to cherish. London/surrounds. A.L.A. Photo app. Reply to Box No 8232

HANDSOME Dubai entrepreneur, nearly 50, interests include desert driving & polo, horse and camel racing, the beach, cosmopolitan socialising, travel, boats, fit, swimming, GSOH seeks attractive, slim, sophisticated n/s career minded lady, 30-40 to have travel companionship with romantic overtones. Box No 5474

HANDSOME and successful 6'2" tall 39yr old seeks very assertive and adventurous woman for a long and genuine relationship. Please write to me with a photo if pass and tell me everything. You won't be disappointed. A.L.A. Box No 5447

HANDSOME male 26, gorgeous to look at. Fun to be with: affectionate and sensitive man seeks smart, sophisticated older woman. Bristol, anywhere. Please Reply to Box No 8265.

HIGHLY successful 35 year old Belfast businessman, who is reasonably attractive, sincere and well presented seeks intelligent, beautiful companion 20-35 for long relationship. If tall, willing to travel and shall reply to all letters. Photo please. Write to Box No 8200 .

HIPPY Heart professional mid 40's Central London Sag Sun and sailing WLTM lady willing to practice. Plse Reply Box 8422

KENT male professional (30), 6'8", quiet disposition, enjoys sailing, travel, WLTM caring, unsophisticated, female. Photo plse. Box No 5473.

LACONIC Blenheim lawyer (48) looking for Hesperian lyrical lass for lifelong love, and laughs. Please Reply to Box No 5492

LONDON-based Glasgow grad. 31, kind, gentle & romantic, seeks Cinders to spark loving relationship. She need be not perfect, just honest, caring, n/s, single and slimm. Shoot Cobbled reply to Box No 5836

LONELY family minded, early 50s, privately educated professional man, lover of the great outdoors, especially the sea, wishes to meet an educated cultured and fun of fun lady 35-50 (photograph essential. Please Reply to Box No 5444.

LOVELY Ladies, discerning, to join private cocktail party, Surrey. Photo to Box 5438 .

MALE 37, 6'2", 14st. Attractive appearance. Busy, relaxed, witty. Likes dinner parties, acting, travel, newspapers, radio 4, quiet times, reading, country walks and culture. Seeks intelligent professional lady for long term relationship. South Manchester. Box 8264

MANCHESTER/Lancashire. That's where I am, where are you? I'm 37 and work in music. Elgar movers me but so does Sting. I love theatre, the movies, and Ewood Park. For a day out I'm as happy with Reg as Chatsworth. I'm slim and quiet but I love to laugh. I seek a soulmate to share passions and the dream of a family. Call to help me finish the Times crossword. Box 5140 .

NEW man, 40 something WLTM new woman 30 anything. Likes London By Night, Asia in Paris. HKNF. You & Dior this. Mac carting, humourous, lively under low light and soft music. Your smart, bright, attractive & like Stevens. Photo etc please. Box No 8542

NOT tall, not too dark, not handsome, not young or rich, but slim, attractive Indian professional (29) cultured Her seeks equally modest Sharon for serious love. Letter w/ photo if possible. Richard, Midlands. Reply to Box No 5286

NOVELIST, journalist, family man, lover (all tallied) buried in Gloucestershire, craves wife/female company. Age is unimportant but I am 54, 6ft tall, with hair, travel and dreams still intact. I like travel, theatre, music, history and meandering, but most of all I like laughing. I smoke the occasional cigar but would give it up for the right woman. Please Reply to Box No 8191

OPTIMISTIC professional male 31 seeks confident Woman for cuddles and TLC. Cambridge /South East. Box No 8207

OXFORD Graduate, wife sadly died aged 54, daughter 14, needs another coy Establishment girl, probably 26-35, n.s., who would value the extra love of somebody old enough to be her father. Village life, theatre, travel. Cautious blindfixing first. Plse write Box No 5436.

PHILOSOPHER 31 likes books, science, arts seeks intellectual woman for a meeting of minds. A.L.A. London/SE. Box No 8219

SEEKING lovely, slim, intelligent man smoking lady in 30's for life partner by fun, single, businessman, 50, loves children, hospitals, outdoors. Homes both sides Atlantic. Genuine only. Box No 8429

SOLICITOR, 35, Partner, single, seeks Lady Doctor or similar professional. Please Reply to Box No 8287

SOLITARINESS counter only with loneliness. Prefer mixed race. Active, caring, loving, wishes to meet lady 48-50. Photo plse, SE Box No 8367

SOULMATE lover & partner, quality man with be, 40+, discerning, aware, 45+, in London, with no ties, non-smoking, tallish, slim and good looking. If you value intellectual, sexual and emotional rapport and are travelling to seeing reciprocity, please reply with photo. Box No 5146

SOUTH HANTS widower, early 50's, tall, slim, fit and solvent. Enjoys sports, country walking, wine and conversation, to raise just a few! Seeks the company of a sincere lady with an easy going personality and sense of fun and adventure for friendship and sharing life's pleasures. Reply to Box No 8301

TIMES reader sought as soulmate for mobile W.Middx 60+(+) widower (6' fit, solvent but not artic.) who must, like me, be affectionate, gentle, caring and also a quietly reserved n/s. For walks, talks, books, music and more (French hols?). Go on, be brave, write to Ian at W1A Times if agreed, meet for coffee/lunch via Box 8532

WIDOWER, 55, retired, seeks long-haired water-cyclist who feels good in bikini and frilly dresses for longish caravan trip to Europe this summer, and to share the "woodchuck" retreat. My treat. Maybe Dorset, anywhere. Box No 5062

WITTY single graduate 30's, sensitive, caring, slim, fit, genuine, seeks similar female. Yorks, /nearby preferred. Box 5396.

24yo seeks very feminine lady 40+. for fun and friendship. Please Reply to Box No 5478

YOUNG at heart, retired, divorced gentleman, Ex-GAS Regt. interests - dangerous sports, adventure, travel, the arts and the good life, WLTM chic, slim, unattached lady, GSOH (you'll probably read it) for romance, friendship or whatever. Race, colour, creed immaterial. London, south preferred. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box 5437.

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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by Raymond Keene

Anatoly Karpov, the FIDE World Champion, has been in particularly fine form of late. He qualified for the FIDE final (later this year, against the American grandmaster Gata Kamsky) by demolishing Boris Gelfand in Sanghi Nagar.

Although tired after his exertions in India, Karpov proceeded immediately to Linares in Spain, where he took undefeated second place in a powerful tournament behind only Vassily Ivanchuk. Again, almost without pause, he went on to dominate the blitz and blindfold competition in Monaco, ahead of most of the world's best grandmasters.

Kasparov himself was a notable absentee. Here is Karpov's best game from Linares.

White: Joel Lautier
Black: Anatoly Karpov
Nimzo-Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6	2	c4	e6		
3	Nc3	Bb4	4	Qc2			

A popular variation. White gains the advantage of the bishop pair, but sometimes finds his queen as a target for Black's developing minor pieces.

4	...	0-0	5	a3	Bxc3+		
6	Qxc3	b6	7	Bg5	Bb7		
8	e3	d6	9	f3	Nbd7		
10	Bd3	c5	11	Ne2	Rc8		
12	Qb3	h6	13	Bh4	cxd4		
14	exd4	d5	15	c5	Be8		
16	Be6	Rc7	17	Bg3			

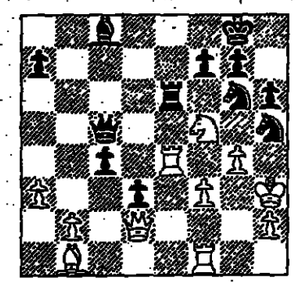
Karpov appears to have got his pieces into a tangle on the queen's flank and now, indeed, his rook is trapped by the crossfire of White's bishops. Nevertheless, this is all part of a profound plan, whereby Karpov sacrifices rook for bishop to undermine White's central installations.

17	...	bxc5	18	Bxc7	Qxc7
19	Qc3	e6			

An avalanche of pawns in the centre, but it is now dangerous for White to capture either on c5 or e5, both of which would unleash the hidden energy in the black position. For example, 20 dxe5 d4 21 Qd2 Nxe5 22 0-0 Qb6 23 Bd3 c4.

Alternatively, 20 dxc5 d4 21 Qd2 Nxc5 22 Rc1 Qb6 23 Bc4 d3. In both cases, Black has a powerful initiative.

20	Bd3	exd4	21	Nxd4	Re8+
22	Kf1	Qb6	23	Nf5	d4
24	Qd2	Ne5	25	Re1	Re6
26	Bb1	Bb7	27	Kf2	d3
28	Rhf1	c4+	29	Kg3	Nh5+
30	Kh3	Ng6	31	g3	Bc8
32	Re4	Qc5	33	g4	



33... Ngf4+ White's situation was already clearly precarious, but this beautiful sacrifice leads to the final breakthrough.

34	Rxd4	Re2	35	Qc1	Nxd4+
36	Qxd4	Bxf5	37	gxf5	

If instead, 37 Qxf5 Qxf5 38 gxf5 Rxb2 (threatening ... Rxb1 and ... c3) White has nothing better than 39 Bxd3 cxd3 40 Rc1 Kf8, with a winning rook and pawn endgame for Black.

37	...	Rxb2	38	Re1	Qf2
39	Qg3	Qxg3+	40	fxg3	Rxb1

White resigns.

We have seen this motif before. After 41 Rxb1 c3, Black will automatically queen a pawn. A beautiful victory by Karpov.

Karpov will be in London next week, and can be seen at the Royal Albert Hall where he will be awarded the accolade of Player of the Year for 1994 by the International Chess Writers Association. The award will take place within the context of the Festival of the Mind, organised by the Brain Trust charity. For details, or if you wish to attend, ring 01628 482765.

CHESS PROBLEM

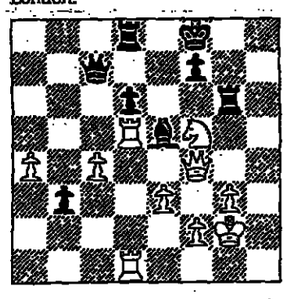
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Schöne - Vigh, Budapest 1995. Black has just moved his bishop to e5 to threaten the white queen. How did White demonstrate that this was a bad mistake?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 ... Bxf3+ (2 Bxf3 Be5)

Last week's winners: A Brewis, Ware, Herts; D D C Howat, London; D Blaise, Chingford, London.



PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon on the right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Caption suggestion, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Cartoon Caption 53, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday April 19.



Chelsea Host. "SORRY, OLD MAN, I OUGHT TO HAVE TOLD YOU, WE'RE QUITE ALONE— YOU NEEDN'T HAVE BOTHERED TO DRESS YOURSELF UP."



"Are you the Miss Flora MacDonald who's offering to take Tory survivors to Skye?

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Les Robins of Ickburgh, Norfolk

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HUTUNG
a. Raw antelope meat
b. A side alley
c. An Indonesian language

KERERU
a. A pigeon
b. Bride price
c. Buddhist purdah

MAIKO
a. Gambling with raindrops
b. A Samurai servant
c. A trainee geisha

MICHELSBERG
a. Cream and meringue pudding
b. A school of philosophy
c. A Neolithic culture

Answers on page 17

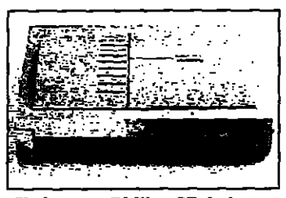
COMPUTER GAMES

IT'S EASTER, so here's your chance to win a Cyberspace golden egg in the shape of a Philips 450 CD-i player complete with video upgrade cartridge and several CD-i titles. The whole lot is worth £350.

Philips CD-i stands for Compact Disc Interactive and it is one of the new breed of home-entertainment systems. It plays games, movies and music videos on CD-i discs, which look like ordinary 5in audio-compact discs. It also plays ordinary audio-compact discs as well as photo CDs (though not CD-Roms).

About the same size and shape as a video player, the machine plugs into television and hi-fi systems. Operation is foolproof, with a cordless remote control and plug-in control pads and accessories for playing games. The benefit of this system is the high quality of vision and, especially, sound it generates. Games have crystal-clean lines and use vast graphic capabilities, while the superior sound brings CD-i software to life. Many of the films, for example, can be played in Dolby Surround Sound.

The impressive and fast-growing range of more than 200 CD-i titles includes interactive children's titles (such as visits to shipwrecks or *Sesame Street*), games (from "Connect Four" to "Cluedo"), reference (from "World of Impressionism" to rock-guitar lessons), music (from Pavarotti to Pink Floyd) and, on film, everything from *The Krays* to *The Crying Game*.



To be won: Philips CD-i player

We've picked out three titles for our winner to show off to the full the CD-i player's possibilities. The games *Burn Cycle* and *Chaos Control* are set in stylised future worlds. In the first, you are the fugitive Sol Cutter faced with the irritating problem of deactivating a brain-eating virus planted in your bonce. In the second, you're flying a spacefighter in a race to save Earth from destruction. Our third title is Britain's movie-of-the-moment, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

To enter Cyberspace Fourteen you are once again invited to slip into the designer's chair and invent an imaginary game. With home-entertainment systems in mind, you must invent a multi-player game for all the family to enjoy. What could possibly turn a family of couch potatoes into a family of CD-i players? You tell us.

The competition is open to all ages and the judges will favour originality. Entries must be highly legible and between 150 and 350 words. Please include your name, age, address and telephone number and clearly mark the envelope: Cyberspace Fourteen, Computer Games, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You may also fax entries to us on 0171-729 6791. The closing date is midnight on Tuesday May 2.

The winners of Cyberspace Thirteen are: Tim Bennett of Ascot, Berkshire; Ian Muir of Cramlington, Northumberland, and Tim Mallesson of Chichester. Each wins a Trackball Pro mouse and Flightstick Pro joystick, both made by CH Products. Their reviews of a gaming accessory will be featured next week.

TIM WAPSHOTT

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THIS YEAR the British Bridge League has introduced a "Premier League", with two divisions of eight teams. Each division will play a round-robin over three weekends, and then there will be promotion and relegation between the divisions.

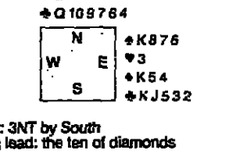
The winning team in Division One will be automatically selected as the British representatives at the 1996 EC championships.

Both hands today come from Division One matches. The first hand is a defensive problem from the match between Liggins and Casey.

You are sitting East; North deals at love-all. The bidding is:

W	N	E	S
—	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

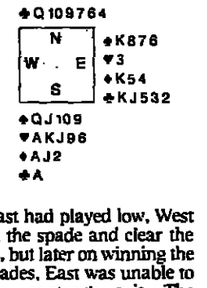
Your partner leads the ten of diamonds and this is what you see:



Contract: 3NT by South
Opening lead: the ten of diamonds

The declarer puts up the queen of diamonds and you cover with the king, which holds the trick. When you continue diamonds the declarer wins with the ace and plays a heart to the queen. He then plays a spade. You to play.

At the table East played low on the spade and now the declarer made his contract. This was the full deal:



After East had played low, West could win the spade and clear the diamonds, but later on winning the king of spades, East was unable to return her partner's suit. The declarer made one spade trick, five hearts, two diamonds and a club.

The winning defence is for East to rise with her king of spades on the first round of the suit, and continue diamonds. Is this a reasonable play? I think so. East can tell that declarer has AJx of diamonds. Hence West cannot have more than five diamonds.

West would probably have led a heart if she had been five-five in the red suits, so that means the declarer is likely to have five hearts. Putting that all together, it seems quite probable that the declarer's hand is as above, making it correct to play the king of spades.

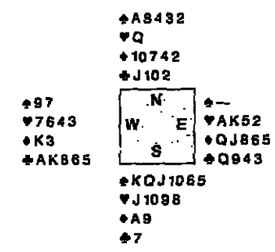
At the second table North-South arrived in 3NT by the same route. West also led a diamond. Again the declarer took the second round, but this time led the queen of spades from hand.

West, nervous that declarer was trying to sneak the ninth trick, took his ace, and switched to hearts. West was worried that South had the king-queen of spades and six club tricks, but this didn't add up — if East's hearts had been good enough to beat the contract he would have laid down the king at trick two, before continuing diamonds.

Four hearts would have been an easier contract, but it looks right for South to try 3NT over Three Clubs. The drawback to bidding Three Hearts is that if North has no heart support he might just bid Four Clubs. The root of the problem was North's opening Three Club bid. This was not exactly classical, with only a six-card suit and with so many values outside the main suit. While it might have been effective if the hand had belonged to the opponents, here it just disrupted his own side's bidding.

The next hand was initially scored as a flat board — "What did you do on board 4?"; "620"; "push" ("push" means no swing). It was only during the post-mortem that it was discovered that both North-South in room one and East-West in room two had scored 620.

Game all; dealer West



At the first table East-West bid Five Clubs over North-South's Four Spades, and made it with an overtrick. At the second table this was the auction:

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♣	4♠	All Pass	

The declarer made ten tricks in Four Spades. On the above auction East was too reticent. With a void and a reasonable trump fit she should have pushed on to Five Clubs. Her minimum opening bid has improved enormously with the club fit.

It is interesting to see what The Law of Total Tricks would predict. As North-South have 11 spades and East-West nine clubs, there should be 20 tricks available. As North-South can make ten tricks, The Law suggests East-West would also make ten tricks. Not such a good prediction here, but nevertheless confirming the view that East should bid on.

THE TIMES

The Times Computer Crosswords
by David Akenhead

Available for IBM PCs (MS DOS) and Acorn Archimedes range with high resolution graphics and help facilities for beginners and experts alike - on 3.5 diskette (circa 60 crosswords each)

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(100 Crosswords)

The Times Concise Crosswords
4,5,6 (3 titles)

The Times Two Crosswords 1

The Times Two Crosswords 2
(April 1995)

The Sunday Times Computer Crosswords
Vols. 1,2,3,4,5,6. (6 titles)

The Sunday Times Crosswords
10,11,12,13 (4 titles)

The Sunday Times Concise Crosswords
1,2,3 (3 titles)

The Sunday Times Concise Crosswords 4
(April 1995)

The Sunday Times Mephisto Crosswords

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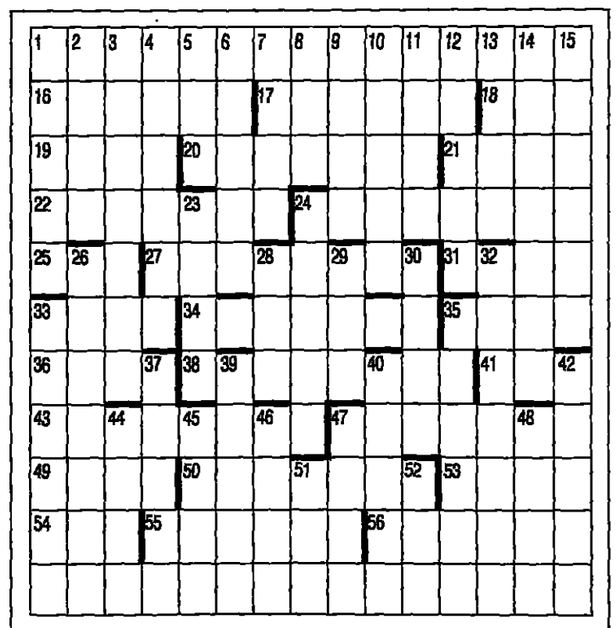
THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3001: Hangover Cure, by Franc

A hangover can be an unpleasant experience. Fortunately, a simple cure exists which has to be applied to all but 12 solutions (7 across and 5 down) before insertion in the grid. The unclued top and bottom row together constitute part of an allusion (in Brewer's) to an early practitioner of the cure. All down clues contain a surplus word. The surplus words, when thematically treated, each yield two letters. These letters, taken in clue order, will complete the allusion referred to above.

ACROSS
16. Broken terrain coach
17. Non-drinker involved in row! Ends with a giggle
18. Dingy yellow colour is a tree
19. Disease of plant
20. Hôly 6 arranged with principal Swede for religious leader
21. Where to go for a walk, and a sleep may be?
22. Back lit (side, right) appears to flow again
24. Satin ones aroused excitement
25. Tack consists of crusts of bread
27. Tonight, commonly, the city goes back and gets stuck in for rock!
31. Regret audibly bad gin after the night before
33. Chalaza altered, dislocated
34. Element unchanged when combined with four others?
35. First couple of aperitifs eke out - sailor's vertical
36. Performs psalm containing religious faith
38. Money man expensively treated
41. Burning will get us (not I) troubled
43. Hootch first (small measure) then vermouth (a measure) in crystal - doubles?
47. Hint of drunkenness in elbow bending origin is cut (badly)
49. Fix a pompon for a scad
50. He has one property admitting everyone - no Scots please!
53. Refuse drink - initially English remove backing
54. Tip top train ride on new coaches
55. Reveller has most of Spanish wine on terrace
56. Masses trust in later arrangement

DOWN
1. One who unravels lively snort at heart of alternative oral cure
2. Henry Drew has long drink - a flag-raiser
3. Surreptitious stiff imbibed icily hereto
4. She's instrumental in putting Thurso Scot in slippery slope
5. I join four at table for Hindi drinks
6. "Half" of saki beer and "it" set alight
7. Roberto sounds drunk (and poorly) - on Flowers?
8. Drink in the morning for this rascal newab? Quite the reverse
9. Pass the emptied bottle - it's a litre short! ...
10. ... bad sign for a number into bubbly strong wine
11. Tomato flowers out of place - wee drop should initially suffice
12. Initial sip of richest sherry (sweet) - it's a laugh!
13. Wait for upper first cocktail
14. Sups Riesling (not half shaken) - sighs engulf
15. Cause instant changes on ale, paralytic - that's mustard
23. To drink spirit upsets drunkard on Sabbath
24. Bad practices return and cause Hermione to slip
26. Impenetrable old man (indoor worker) takes in last of wine
28. A couple of napoo litres is enough for everyone
29. Initially bestial intoxication can ease formality
30. Take the plunge with first of eider egg-flip just made ...
32. ... see palooka Nelly pout outrageously richly
33. Drink (a measure) and the right signs are here
35. Preparing saddest old move with gin sling
37. Resin which results from hostile use of blade round trunk? Not so
39. Scenario: oxygen together with hydrogen in gap in ions is producing migration of suspended particles
40. Stand of half of unusual strong round mixed with spirit
42. Drowned valleys seen initially in convulsive servo movement of rocks
44. Vain Flowers Chester pubs conceal short measures
45. Smashing unbelief? Bad gin in middle of night
46. He serves two feeble chaps
47. Flog raki bottle-opener to Irish chief
48. Register trust in drink with 25% off nothing
51. Recreate wet Dralon winner-ski without wings suitable for work at the bar
52. Trusty fellow troop will produce when teetotallers full of spirit



LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3001

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O	N	E	R	P	I	N	N	A	C	E	S	A	S	T
T	E	A	R	S	H	T	A	M	Y	L	C	U	A	G
A	N	T	I	Q	U	E	L	I	V	O	R	■	R	A
G	H	O	S	T	A	N	D	A	N	T	E	O	■	U
R	A	R	P	S	H	A	W	G	I	B	E	R	B	R
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S	M	E	L	T	E	D	T	A	M					

Solution to No. 3298, Treasure Hunt II: The treasure is BEATRICE, hunted by DANTE. The journey is from JERUSALEM to PURGATORY. **Winner:** S.J. O'Boyle, of Horsham, West Sussex. Runners-up: P. Ryder, of Bristol, and Mrs Mary Fisher, of Caithness.

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